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Discrimination against Women

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial reports of the States parties
Addendum

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

(Autonomous part of the Kingdom of the Netnerlands)

CONTENTS

Page

Introduction 4

PART ONE

1. General, social, economic, political and legal structures 5

1.1 General 5

1.2 Social structures 6

1.3 Economy 8

1.4 Constitutional structure 31

1.5 The legal system 33

PART TWO

2. The position of women 34

Article 1: The Constitution and laws of the Netherlands Antilles as they relate to discrimination 35

Article 2: Policy and legal measures to ensure the elimination of discrimination 36

Article 3: Measures towards equality 38

Article 4: Affirmative action to accelerate equality between men and women 38

Article 5: Sex roles and stereotypes 39

Article 6: Stress and violence 40

Article 7: Political and public life 42

Article 8: International representation and participation 45

Article 9: Nationality and citizenship 47

Article 10: Education 47

Article 11: Employment 50

Article 12: Health 52

Article 13: Social and economic benefits 60

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

Article 14: Rural concept 60

Article 15: Equality before the law 61

Article 16: Marriage and family law 61

PART THREE

Appendix I: Court of First Instance of the Netherlands Antilles, sitting on Curaçao: Date of ruling: 19 November 1991 KG No. 406/91

Appendix II: Study on "Cooperative-based support services for workers with family responsibilities"

Appendix III: The suitcase traders in the free zone of Curaçao (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC) (LC/L.587(MDM.11/6))

Appendix IV: Statistics: Public health 64

Appendix V: Statistics: Public health 65

Appendix VI: Statistics: Public health 66

Appendix VII: Statistics: Public health 67

INTRODUCTION

The General Assembly of the United Nations by its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Under article 18 of this Convention, each State party is required to submit a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which it has adopted to give effect to the provision of the Convention.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was ratified for the Kingdom of the Netherlands (which comprises the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba), on 22 August 1991.

The Netherlands Antilles hereby submits its initial report. This report was prepared in two parts and follows as closely as possible the directions of the "General Guidelines regarding the form and content of reports received from State parties under article 18 of the Convention".

When preparing this report several documents have been taken into consideration e.g. (guidelines and recommendations), the reporting process, a manual for the Commonwealth secretariat 1988, guidelines for Part Two of the report by "the International Women's Right Action Watch" and the "Manual on Human Rights Reporting" United Nations/New York 1991.

Part One provides a description of the general framework within which the elimination of discrimination can be approached. In Part One of this report much attention has been given to the economic aspects of the Netherlands Antilles.

It was important to be able to illustrate the status of the relationship between the economy, economy-related activities and their effects on the position of women in the Netherlands Antilles.

Part Two examines articles 1-16 of the Convention and provides information pertaining to each article.

PART ONE

1. General, Social, Economic, Political and Legal Structures

1.1 General

The Netherlands Antilles is an autonomous part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and consists of five islands: Bonaire with its capital Kralendijk, Curaçao with its capital Willemstad, Saba with its capital The Bottom, St. Eustatius with its capital Oranjestad and St. Maarten with its capital Philipsburg. These are part of the chain of islands between North and South America known as the Antilles.

The combined surface area of the Netherlands Antilles is about 800 square kilometres, of which Bonaire has 288 square kilometres, Curaçao 444 square kilometres, Saba 13 square kilometres, St. Eustatius 21 square kilometres and St. Maarten 34 square kilometres. Based on their location, a distinction is made between the Leeward Islands Bonaire and Curaçao and the Windward Islands Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. This distinction dates from the time of the transatlantic sailing ships and refers to the islands' position in relation to the trade wind.

The distance between the two groups of islands is about 900 kilometres. The Leeward Islands lie at a latitude of about 12°N and a longitude of between 68 and about 70°W. They are coastal islands situated between 30 and 90 kilometres off the South American continent. The distance between Bonaire and Curaçao is about 52 kilometres. The islands are elongated in shape and consist mainly of igneous rock surrounded and partly covered by limestone. The highest point, at 375 m, is the summit of the St. Christoffelberg on Curaçao. The Windward Islands belong to the northern part of the Antilles and lie at about 18°N and 63°W. The islands are separated by only short distances: 52 kilometres between St. Maarten and Saba, and 70 kilometres between St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. At 870.4 m, Mountain Scenery on Saba is the highest point in the Netherlands Antilles.

Precipitation on the Windward Islands is generally greater than in the Leeward Islands, and as a result the conditions for agriculture are slightly more favourable. Both island groups lie in the area where the trade wind blows from the north-east or south-east almost all year round. The average temperature is 27.1°C in the Leeward Islands and 25.4°C in the Windward Islands. The latter lie in the Atlantic hurricane zone, and on average a tropical storm or hurricane passes within 200 kilometres of the islands once a year.

Papiamentu is the native tongue on Bonaire and Curaçao. The name Papiamentu is derived from the verb "papia" (talk), which probably comes from the old Portuguese "papear".

English is the native tongue on Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. It is also a very important language on Bonaire and Curaçao because of its use in trade, shipping and aviation, tourism and the media (e.g., English-language television series, and sports).

There are also differences between the two island groups in religion. The population of the Leeward Islands is mainly Roman Catholic, whereas a significant part of the population of the Windward Islands is Methodist or Anglican. The reason for this is the strong British influence in the Windward Islands in the course of history. The following table shows religious affiliations in the Netherlands Antilles.

	Bonaire	Curaçao	Saba	St. Eustatius	St. Maarten
			(By per cent)		
Roman Catholic	88.5	88.0	69.7	19.4	41.1
Methodist	0.0	1.0	1.3	41.6	26.1
Anglican	0.1	0.5	21.1	2.9	8.7
Adventist	1.4	1.1	0.5	26.8	3.9
Protestant	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.5
Calvinist	2.5	3.6	0.1	1.8	1.7
Evangelist	1.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2
Jehovah's Witness	0.8	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.8
Muslim	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Jewish	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4
Other	2.8	0.8	6.1	3.7	12.4
No religion	1.7	2.5	0.4	3.5	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Population Census 1981.

1.2 Social structures

Population

The total population of the Netherlands Antilles on 31 December 1991 was 191,311, comprising 97,519 women and 93,792 men. Between 31 December 1986 and 31 December 1991 the population decreased by 42,781. This is largely due to the fact that Aruba acquired special status on 1 January 1986 and is thus no longer part of the Netherlands Antilles. Another cause for the decrease is emigration.

Vital Statistics

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Live births	3 659	3 567	3 456	3 506	3 602	3 486
Deaths	1 040	1 110	1 219	1 214	1 217	1 107
Natural increase	2 619	2 459	2 237	2 292	2 385	2 379
Reg. arrivals	4 806	6 124	5 560	6 914	.	.
Reg. departure	5 210	6 871	7 335	8 591	.	.
Net migration	-404	-747	-1 775	-1 677	-1 972	1 628
Total increase	2 215	1 691	462		615	751

Source: Island Registry Offices.

In the absence of complete statistics, use has been made of data from Bonaire and Curaçao. The total fertility rate on Curaçao gradually fell between 1972 and 1989 from about 3.12 to 2.11 children per woman. In the case of Bonaire, it fell between 1980 and 1990 from 2.54 to 2.41 children per woman. In 1990, there was a slight rise on Curaçao to 2.23. In the 1950s, the rate on Curaçao was still about 5 children per woman. The low point of 1989 is at the level of zero population growth, i.e. given no migration and no change in current death rates, in the end the population would still decrease.

In view of current attitudes and developments, it is unlikely that the underlying trend in the fertility rate on Bonaire and Curaçao will show an increase in the future. More and more women have outside jobs and are seeking emancipation.

The average life expectancy at birth on Bonaire and Curaçao is 72 years for men and 76 years for women. It is assumed that life expectancy rates will gradually increase, resulting in an average life expectancy in the year 2040 of 76 years for men and 80 years for women.

Types of family

The abolition of slavery was followed by a period in which the descendants of the slaves were still not encouraged to form monogamous family relationships. It was to be a considerable time before the "Coloured population" opted for this family type. The result was that there were both fathers with several families and mothers with children by several fathers in single-parent households. Both types of family are still common today.

In addition there is an increase in the numbers of divorces, teenage pregnancies and unmarried mothers. The following table shows developments in the divorce rate in the Netherlands Antilles between 1987 and 1991.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Marriages	1 086	1 275	1 226	1 267	.
Divorces	429	438	416	409	.

1988/1991

	Bonaire	Curaçao	Saba	St. Eustatius	St. Maarten
1988					
Marriages	55	997	7	5	211
Divorces	18	388	5	5	22
1991					
Marriages	.	916	7	11	221
Divorces	.	428	8	4	36

Between 1988 and 1991 the divorce rate in Curaçao rose from 38.9 per cent to 46.7 per cent.

These statistics lead naturally to the question of the division of labour in the family. Traditionally, the man is not expected to "make sacrifices" by taking care of the children or doing the housekeeping. In single-parent families where the mother cannot reckon on the permanent presence of the father of her children there is obviously no question of a division of labour. The situation is different in the case of younger families where there is a permanent partner. With older families there is generally no question of a fair division of labour. There is clear evidence of more progressive attitudes among those who have spent part of their lives in Europe, usually for university study. They tend to adopt the norms applying there.

1.3 Economy

The Netherlands Antilles economy from 1985 to 1988

The general economic situation

For the Netherlands Antilles as a whole, and Curaçao in particular, 1985 to 1988 was a time of great changes in the economy. In the first place the constitutional change on 1 January 1986 by which Aruba acquired autonomous status (Status Aparte) had economic as well as political consequences.

Industry underwent structural changes. One major event was the decision in 1985 to close the refinery in Curaçao. The expected adverse effects, however, were limited because after taking over the refinery for the symbolic amount of

one guilder, the Government was able to lease it to another foreign State-owned oil company. In the national accounts the refinery is treated as being on foreign territory and so it is primarily reflected in these accounts under the heading of the various domestic dealings with other countries.

In the domestic industrial sector, shipyards were especially badly affected. After several years of losses a reorganization was carried out in 1986, and the positive effects of this were first seen in 1988. The industrial sector contributes only a small part of the gross domestic product: 5 per cent in 1988, almost all from Curaçao. Apart from shipyards, the major part of this sector is made up of protected industries.

The service sector provides the largest part of the income of the Netherlands Antilles. This applies especially to the Windward Islands and in particular St. Maarten. Here also developments were not always favourable. The most significant event in the transport sector was the fact that after undergoing losses for several years the national airline was forced to carry out a reorganization plan in 1986. The volume of the activities at Curaçao's airport none the less rose during this period, and the same could be said about the port.

Tourism flourished in this period, particularly in Bonaire and the Windward Islands. An upward trend was evident from short-term indicators such as the number of nights spent in hotels and the number of cruise tourists. It is noticeable that according to the national accounts the profits from hotels and restaurants on these islands were significantly lower in 1988 than in previous years.

In the international field the picture was completely changed when in 1987 the United States revoked the tax agreement with the Netherlands Antilles. As a result yield from the off-shore sector fell after reaching a record of Af. 465 million in 1986. Curaçao in particular was faced with the threat of major financial difficulties. The budget for 1988 was presented with a deficit of over Af. 100 million. Prospects for the medium term were also bleak.

Gross National Product (GNP) per capita, current and constant prices, Netherlands Antilles

	1985	1986	1987	1988
GNP (mln Af)	2 277,8	2 438,4	2 397,4	2 517,7
Population (x 1000)	188.0	190.3	190.9	190.2
GNP per capita (Af)	12 116	12 814	12 558	13 237
GNP per capita ($US)	6 769	7 158	7 016	7 395
GNP per capita	12 116	12 599	11 891	12 186
Real growth in per capita GNP		4%	-5.6%	2.5%

It is not only the Netherlands Antilles which has felt economic jolts. Both positive and negative jolts have had a marked effect on the economies of all the countries in the Caribbean region. Economically, the Netherlands Antilles has stabilized its position in the region. With a gross national product which is high for the region, substantial growth proved impossible.

Economic development of the Netherlands Antilles

The main sources of income for the Netherlands Antilles are tourism, the off-shore financial industry, the port, oil refining and trade. The main aim of development policy in the 1990s will continue to be socio-economic autonomy. The Government of the Antilles will pursue the following objectives:

(a) Economic development and lower unemployment;

(b) Improved welfare;

(c) A stronger institutional infrastructure.

A. Economic development and lower unemployment

Positive developments in the economy over the last two years have led to the creation of extra jobs. Between 1990 and October 1991 the number of those with jobs in Curaçao increased by 2,500. This is a growth rate of 5.5 per cent, as compared to 3.7 per cent between October 1989 and October 1990. Women made up 70 per cent of those working in these new jobs. The service sector, and particularly activities related to tourism, has been chiefly responsible for the increase in employment in Curaçao and the growing participation of women in the labour market.

The labour force of the Netherlands Antilles is estimated at 72,906. According to the ILO Yearbook of Labour Statistics, 1989-90, women make up 37.3 per cent of the labour force.

The composition of the labour market in the Netherlands Antilles is as follows:

	Total	Men	Women
Labour force	72.906	41.456	31.450
Employed	58.019	34.346	23.673
Seeking work	14.888	7.112	7.776
Unemployment rate	20.4%	17.2%	24.7%

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics. Statistical Orientation.

Compared to previous years, participation by women has increased, but socio-economic factors such as the lack of day care for children, particularly of unmarried mothers, and inadequate secondary conditions of employment are the main obstacles to greater participation.

The unemployment rate among women is 24.7 per cent and higher than among men (17.2 per cent). This means that development plans will have to pay more attention than in the past to the position of women.

Measures taken to improve the socio-economic position of women

(a) Initiatives have been taken and a tripartite consultative body with representatives of government, industry and the trade unions has been set up. Its main task is to draw up a labour market policy aimed among other things at tackling the shortage of trained workers in the technical, administrative and financial fields.

It is intended to analyse the specific role that women can play in the labour market.

(b) The salaries of married and unmarried workers in the public sector, both male and female, will be made the same in 1992.

Restrictions and obstacles which prevent women from playing a more active role in the socio-economic development of the Netherlands Antilles

(a) Lack of proper alignment between the educational system and the labour market;

(b) Low levels of education;

(c) The principle of same pay for the same work is not always applied in practice;

(d) Insufficient improvement of secondary conditions of employment;

(e) Insufficient participation in non-traditional kinds of work;

(f) Insufficient opportunities for retraining aimed especially at women;

(g) Limited access to credit.

B. Improved welfare

To achieve this aim, the following areas call for much attention.

1. Health care

The organizational and financial aspects must be improved.

2. Education

The educational system and the labour market are not well aligned. Accordingly, solutions are being sought for the shortage of trained workers and the excess of untrained workers.

3. Physical planning

A model plan has been devised for the physical development of the Netherlands Antilles on the long term, including the growth of tourism, so that better use will be made of the available space.

4. Housing

For the next 10 years Af. 1,250 million will be made available for improving housing.

5. Environment

In view of the density of population (350 inhabitants/square kilometres), the increase in economic activity and the limited space, a long-term environmental plan is now being drawn up.

C. A stronger institutional infrastructure

The aim is to strengthen the administrative basis of government, with the emphasis on:

(a) Human resource development;

(b) Automation and supply of information;

(c) Improved functioning of the machinery of government.

A civil service that works smoothly and a higher level of expertise are important aspects of the process of raising awareness as regards dealing with the socio-economic problems facing women and successfully implementing socio-economic policy.

Development and development cooperation

During more than 30 years of development cooperation, the Netherlands Antilles has received a significant amount of financial and technical aid from the Netherlands, the European Community and the United Nations Development Programme.

The aim of the development policy of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles was to use foreign capital and technical aid to improve the infrastructure, thus creating a favourable climate for investment and making it

possible to broaden the economic basis and reduce the high level of unemployment. The principal projects approved or implemented had to do with the economic and social infrastructure. It was assumed that women would automatically benefit from this development programme.

Labour force

Introduction

In 1987 the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) organized its first "Arbeidskrachtenonderzoek" (Labour Force Sample Survey) in Curaçao and Bonaire.

At that time the general feeling was that unemployment in Curaçao was exceptionally high. However, the only unemployment figures the CBS could provide to its users were the 1981 figures, based on the latest census.

More recent figures from administrative records were available but the problem with administrative records is that errors tend to accumulate over the years.

In 1987 it was decided on very short notice that a labour force survey was to be held in October of the same year.

The outcome surprised the whole community: the unemployment rate in Curaçao was estimated at 27.6 per cent compared to 20.2 per cent in 1981.

In October and November 1988 the survey was repeated on all five islands of the Netherlands Antilles. In that year time and effort was invested in revising the whole questionnaire to bring it in line with the new recommendations of the International Labour Organization. In 1989 the survey was held only on the island of Curaçao.

One important outcome of the 1988 survey was a further rise of the unemployment figure in Curaçao. But it also became clear that the outcomes of the 1987 and 1988 surveys were not comparable due to the fact that questionnaires were different, although the underlying concepts had not changed.

For this reason this first official publication of the Labour Force Sample Surveys covers only 1988 and 1989. At some places in the text comparisons are also made with the 1981 census, based on the assumption that the 1981 conceptualization was in line with that of the last two surveys.

An important remark concerns the definition of unemployment. With the new questionnaire in 1988 a new definition of unemployment was also introduced, while at the same time unemployment according to the old definition could be calculated.

Labour force of the Netherlands Antilles

The labour force comprises the employed and the unemployed population. As two definitions of unemployment are used, the labour force varies in size.

The unemployment rate of St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire is obviously much lower than that of Curaçao. The number of unemployment in Saba shows the largest difference between the old and the new definition; this might be due to the fact that Saba is such a small island that "Actively looking for work" continuously, is of no use.

The participation rate relates the labour force to the total population, and thus varies with the old and the new definition as well. The higher participation rate of St. Maarten and Saba means that on these islands more people are active in the labour market, either employed or unemployed.

The unemployment rate is on all islands, except for Bonaire, much higher for females than for males. The participation rate on the contrary is much lower for the females: fewer females take part in the labour force. These features appear for the new as well as for the old definition of unemployed (tables 1, 2 and 3).

Table 1. Labour force, unemployment rate and participation rate according to the new definition by sex and by island, 1988

	Employed	Unemployed	Labour force	Unemployment rate	Population	Participation rate
ST. MAARTEN						
Males	6 320	293	6 612	4.4%	12 639	52.3%
Females	5 539	756	6 295	12.0%	14 250	44.2%
Total	11 858	1 049	12 908	8.1%	26 889	48.0%
SABA						
Males	311	5	315	1.4%	558	56.5%
Females	230	5	234	1.9%	585	40.0%
Total	540	9	549	1.6%	1 143	48.0%
ST. EUSTATIUS						
Males	400	29	429	6.8%	922	46.5%
Females	278	52	331	15.8%	957	34.5%
Total	679	81	760	10.7%	1 879	40.4%
BONAIRE						
Males	2 219	292	2 511	11.6%	5 141	48.8%
Females	1 393	140	1 534	9.2%	5 395	28.4%
Total	3 613	432	4 045	10.7%	10 535	38.4%
CURAÇAO						
Males	25 096	6 493	31 589	20.6%	71 299	44.3%
Females	16 233	6 823	23 056	29.6%	77 992	29.6%
Total	41 329	13 316	54 645	24.4%	149 291	36.6%

Table 2. Labour force, unemployment rate and participation rate according to the old definition by sex and by island, 1988

	Employed	Unemployed	Labour force	Unemployment rate	Population	Participation rate
ST. MAARTEN						
Males	6 320	366	6 686	5.5%	12 639	52.9%
Females	5 539	891	6 429	13.9%	14 250	45.1%
Total	11 858	1 257	13 115	9.6%	26 889	48.8%
SABA						
Males	311	23	333	6.8%	558	59.7%
Females	230	18	240	7.3%	585	42.3%
Total	540	41	581	7.0%	1 143	50.8%
ST. EUSTATIUS						
Males	400	46	447	10.4%	922	48.4%
Females	278	70	348	20.0%	957	36.4%
Total	679	116	795	14.6%	1 879	42.3%
BONAIRE						
Males	2 219	356	2 576	13.8%	5 141	50.1%
Females	1 393	211	1 604	13.1%	5 395	29.7%
Total	3 613	567	4 180	13.6%	10 535	39.7%
CURAÇAO						
Males	25 096	9 439	34 535	27.3%	71 299	48.4%
Females	16 233	10 238	26 471	38.7%	77 992	33.9%
Total	41 329	19 677	61 006	32.3%	149 291	40.9%

Table 3. Labour force, unemployment rate and participation rate according to the new definition, St. Maarten and Bonaire, 1988

	15-24		25-44		45-64		15-64	
ST. MAARTEN	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Employed	878	854	4 233	3 916	1 110	671	6 222	5 441
Unemployed	110	256	159	415	12	85	281	756
Labour force	988	1 110	4 392	4 331	1 122	756	6 503	6 198
Unemployment rate	11.1%	23.1%	3.6%	9.6%	1.1%	11.3%	4.3%	12.2%
Total population	1 964	2 330	4 526	5 331	1 379	1 598	7 869	9 260
Participation rate	50.3%	47.6%	97.0%	81.2%	81.4%	47.3%	82.6%	66.9%

	15-24		25-44		45-64		15-64	
BONAIRE	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Employed	351	313	1 264	799	556	265	2 171	1 377
Unemployed	124	70	113	65	54	5	292	140
Labour force	475	383	1 377	864	610	270	2 462	1 517
Unemployment rate	26.1%	18.3%	8.2%	7.5%	8.8%	2.0%	11.8%	9.3%
Total population	842	815	1 447	1 512	826	875	3 116	3 802
Participation rate	56.4%	47.0%	95.1%	57.1%	73.9%	30.9%	79.0%	47.4%

In table 4 the employed population is divided into two groups, i.e., employed and employed/looking for more work. This last group is generally defined as visibly underemployed. In Saba and St. Eustatius, a relatively large number of employed is looking for more work.

But, since the populations of Saba and St. Eustatius are very small, random fluctuations occur frequently.

The category "not working, not actively looking" is part of the unemployed, according to the old definition, while according to the new definition they are "not economically active people". This group is very large in Curaçao, which might be a consequence of the high unemployment rate which discourages peoples from looking actively for work in general.

The group "not working, intend to look" is included in this table because they are expected to join the labour force within a year after the survey.

Table 4: Five categories related to the labour market by island, 1988

	St. Maarten	Saba	St. Eust.	Bonaire	Curaçao
			(By percentage)		
Employed	83.3	78.8	66.7	83.2	64.2
Employed, looking for more work	4.6	12.1	18.1	1.6	2.0
Unemployed	7.8	1.5	10.1	10.2	21.3
Not working, not actively looking	1.5	5.3	4.3	3.2	10.2
Not working, intend to look	2.7	2.3	0.7	1.8	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Labour force of Curaçao, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991

The most striking conclusion from tables 4 and 5 is that the employed population of Curaçao increased remarkably from 1988 to 1991. Employment both for males and females increased by about 14.8 per cent. Consequently unemployment for both sexes decreased. Another remarkable phenomenon was that the labour force decreased in size. This meant that unemployment fell more than employment grew.

Table 5. People in work, those looking for work and the total population of Curaçao by sex, 1990-1991 (including 65+)

	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Working	27 726	17 650	45 376	28 460	19 430	47 890
Looking for work	5 744	5 457	11 201	4 287	5 133	9 420
Labour force	33 470	23 107	56 577	32 747	24 563	57 310
Unemployment rate	17.2%	23.6%	19.8%	13.1%	20.9%	16.4%
Total population	68 768	74 842	143 610	68 374	74 585	142 959
Participation rate	48.7%	30.9%	39.4%	47.9%	32.9%	40.1%

Source: Initial results, Labour Force Survey 1991/CBS.

Unemployment by sex

The unemployment rate among men fell from 17.2 to 13.1 per cent. This is largely the result of a drop in the number of men seeking work (1,457). The total number of men in work rose by 734 compared with 1990. The net result was that the male labour force fell by 2 per cent. The number of women seeking work fell by 324 (6 per cent). On the other hand, as already indicated, the number of women in work rose by 10 per cent as compared with 1990 (see table 5). Generally speaking, as an economy recovers it provides more employment opportunities for women and indeed this is the case here.

Labour force

The degree to which a population is economically active can be deduced from the "participation rate". The total participation rate for the population of Curaçao has risen from 39.4 to 40.1 per cent (see table 6). Table 5 shows that the participation rate among men fell from 48.7 to 47.9 per cent. The reason for this is the decrease in the male labour force. In contrast, the participation rate among women rose from 30.9 to 32.9 per cent. This is almost entirely due to an increase in the female labour force.

The drop in the unemployment rate is due to the total number of those in work increasing by about 6 per cent (n = 2,514) and the total number of those seeking work falling by about 16 per cent (n = 1,781).

The labour force of Curaçao grew by about 1 per cent (733 persons). The net increase in the total number of those in work (see table 6) is mainly the result of a relatively large number of women joining the labour force in 1991. The number of working women increased by 10 per cent compared with the previous year.

Table 6. People in work, those looking for work and the total population of Curaçao in October 1988, 1990 and 1991

	1988	1989	1990	1991
Working	41 329	43 774	45 376	47 890
Looking for work	13 316	11 670	11 201	9 420
Labour force	54 645	55 444	56 577	57 310
Unemployment rate	24.4%	21.0%	19.8%	16.4%
Total population	148 099	145 070	143 610	142 959
Participation rate	36.8%	38.2%	39.4%	40.1%

Source: (1) Labour Force Surveys Netherlands Antilles 1988 and 1989/CBS; (2) Initial results, Labour Force Survey 1991.

At the same time there is a substantial fall (about 25 per cent) in the number of men looking for work. A connection can be made between the fall in the total number of those looking for work and the decline in the population, which suggests that the latter is one of the main factors in the decrease in unemployment (see table 6).

Summary of the LFSS report by island

Bonaire 1988

In Bonaire the unemployment rate is 10.7 per cent, but unlike the other islands it is higher for males than for females (11.6 per cent and 9.2 per cent).

The unemployment rate for males and females in the age group 15-24 years is 26.1 per cent and 18.3 per cent, respectively. The participation rate is 38.4 per cent.

The private sector employs 73 per cent of the working population, the government 27 per cent.

The largest occupational categories are "production and transportation workers" (40.1 per cent) and "service workers" (23.2 per cent).

The most important sectors are "other services" (41.0 per cent), construction (13.6 per cent), hotels and restaurants (12.6 per cent) and wholesale and retail trade (11.4 per cent). The mean income of the employed population in Bonaire is Af. 1,266, the median, Af. 981.

About 61 per cent of the unemployed in Bonaire has been unemployed for less than one year. The majority has no (personal) income (80 per cent), only a fraction of the unemployed females states that they receive "onderstand" (social security), none of the males does so. The occupations in which the employed are seeking work are strongly sex-differentiated. Females are especially in the category "service workers" (53.8 per cent), while males are looking for work as "production and transportation workers" (53.7 per cent). Many males (25.9 per cent) are willing to take "anything" as occupation, females are more particular; only 7.7 per cent says "anything".

The main reasons for the not-economically-active population for not looking for work are: being homemakers (females), students, or retired.

Curaçao 1988 and 1989

In Curaçao the labour force increased slightly in size between 1988 and 1989. The unemployment rate decreased from 24.4 per cent in 1988 to 21.9 per cent in 1989, a decrease was visible in all age groups and for both sexes (no change among the males 45-64). The unemployment rate is, in all age groups, higher for females than for males. In the youngest age group (15-24 years) it is very high; 33.8 per cent for males and 47.4 per cent for females (1989). The participation rate is about 41 per cent.

Of the employed population 78.8 per cent works in the private sector (1989). This is an increase compared to 1988. The government sector decreased due to the retrenchment policy of the governments (island and central) through which 1,500 government employees left the service. The most frequently occurring occupation among males is "production and transportation workers" (49.7 per cent), among females, "clerical supervisors and related workers" (29.0 per cent). The most important sectors are "other services" (35.5 per cent), "wholesale and retail trade" (18.5 per cent) and "banking/insurance" and "industry", each having nearly 10 per cent.

The mean income of the employed population (1988) is Af. 1,650, the median, Af. 1,178. Expressing the incomes in 1989 in 1981 guilders, it can be concluded that no major changes in income level and distribution have occurred since 1981.

The unemployment rate in Curaçao decreased significantly between the surveys in 1988 and 1989. It is, however, still very high. The educational level of the unemployed population is clearly lower than that of the employed population. The duration of unemployment in Curaçao is much longer than on the other islands; almost 60 per cent has been unemployed for over two years. An ample 60 per cent of the unemployed have no (personal) income; those with an income have in general a very low income. The largest occupational categories in which the unemployed are looking for work are "production and transportation workers" (28.2 per cent), "service workers" (20.4 per cent) and "anything" (21.0 per cent).

The majority of the unemployed population is looking for a full-time job (40-42 hours/week).

The not-economically-active population consists of mainly homemakers, students and retired persons.

Saba 1988

The unemployment rate for Saba is very low (1.6 per cent according to the new definition, 7.0 per cent according to the old definition), but since the population is very small, sample errors may easily occur.

The participation rate is high, 50.8 per cent, but compared to the other islands, many of those employed work part-time. The mean income of the employed population of Saba is Af. 1,373, the median Af. 1,181. 55.8 per cent is working in the private sector, the remainder for the Government; it must be noticed, however, that the Government in Saba employs many part-time workers as a means to share the available jobs and incomes.

St. Eustatius 1988

The unemployment rate in St. Eustatius is 10.7 per cent, participation rate, 40.4 per cent.

Unemployment is higher among females than among males, but St. Eustatius too is a very small island and sample errors may occur.

The mean income of the employed population is Af. 1,285, the median, Af. 907.

The private sector is larger than in Saba but smaller than on the other islands. The Government employs, like in Saba and for the same reason, many part-timers. Of the employed population, 18 per cent is looking for more work.

St. Maarten

The labour force of St. Maarten consists of 12,908 persons in 1988, of whom 8.1 per cent are unemployed (according to the new definition). The participation rate is 48.0 per cent.

Unemployment rates for females are higher than for males in all three age groups (15-24, 25-44 and 45-64); in the youngest age group the highest unemployment rates are found: 11.1 per cent and 23.1 per cent, respectively, for males and females.

The mean income of the employed population of St. Maarten is Af. 1,711, the median Af. 1,414. These are the highest of all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

The most important sectors are wholesale and retail trade (21.7 per cent), hotels and restaurants (19.9 per cent) and "other services" (28.9 per cent).

Compared to 1981 (census) the relative distribution of the employed population over the sectors has hardly changed, while in absolute numbers the employed population has doubled.

The educational level of the unemployed population is lower than the level of the employed. For most of the unemployed, the duration of unemployment is less than a year (over 80 per cent).

The majority of the unemployed have no (personal) income (79.2 per cent males, 85.5 per cent females).

Asked what kind of work they are looking for, the occupations mentioned most fit in the categories "service workers" and "clerical supervisors and related workers". Of the unemployed, 80 per cent desires a job for 40-42 hours a week, 13 per cent wants to work more than 42 hours.

The not-economically-active population, those persons not working and not actively looking for work, are predominantly students, homemakers and retired persons.

Census 1992

The census was carried out by the Central Bureau of Statistics in the last week of January 1992. The previous census was held in 1981. It will be some months before the information is processed. Only the initial results of the 1992 census of Curaçao were available at the time of writing this report.

The initial results for Curaçao are based on a sample of 7 per cent of households. Over 130,000 people in Curaçao were interviewed. The initial results are as follows.

There was a marked decrease in the size of the average household. In 1981, 4.3 persons per house were counted. The 1992 figure was 3.5.

The size of the total population cannot be calculated until the final results of the census are available in the second half of 1992. But it is very likely that the total population has decreased since 1981, when over 147,000 people were counted.

Those born in Curaçao make up 83 per cent of the population. In 1981 this figure was 86 per cent. This decrease is undoubtedly connected to a high emigration rate in recent years.

The population of Curaçao is ageing. At present 7.6 per cent are older than 65, excluding residents in institutions such as homes for the elderly, while in 1981 the figure was only 6.5 per cent.

One in four inhabitants (24.4 per cent) is below the age of 15; in 1981 this figure was still over 28 per cent.

Practically all children go to school. Between the ages of 5 and 14, 99 per cent or more attend school; this is a very high participation rate.

The unemployment rate in the census sample was 17.7 per cent. This is over one percentage point higher than the rate of 16.4 per cent found in the Labour Force Survey of September 1991.

There is a marked disparity between supply and demand in the labour market. Relatively few of those seeking jobs (6 per cent) are looking for the kind of highly trained work done by 30 per cent of those in employment. On the other hand, there is a substantial demand for work in construction, the service sector and unskilled occupations.

The quality of housing in Curaçao seems to have improved since 1981. The proportion of bad and very bad houses fell from 14 to 8 per cent.

There has also been an increase in the facilities in homes. Most notably, the number of houses with telephones grew from 5 out of 10 to 8 out of 10. The number of houses without running water or electricity decreased further.

Possession of consumer durables such as television sets, refrigerators and freezers is more widespread. More than one in two households now has a video recorder (question asked for the first time in this census).

Another new item is the personal computer, and 9 per cent of households say to have one. This figure is quite high bearing in mind that the equivalent figure in the United States is estimated to be 15 per cent.

Age structure

Table 7 shows the age structure. Over 25 per cent of the sample was in the 0-14 age group; in 1981 this applied to 28.1 per cent. Those aged 65 and over made up 7.6 per cent in 1992 (excluding, for example, homes for the elderly); in 1981 they accounted for 6.5 per cent of the whole population (i.e., including all institutions). These developments reflect the ageing of the population. This was much more marked, however, between 1972 and 1981 than between 1981 and 1992; in 1972, 38.7 per cent was aged 0-14.

Table 7. Population by age and sex (%)

Age	Men	Women	Total
0-14	27.6	23.5	25.4
15-64	65.8	68.0	67.0
65+	6.6	8.5	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Country of birth

Table 8 shows the country or island of birth. Of the men, 88.9 per cent were born in the Netherlands Antilles or Aruba; the equivalent figure for women is 86 per cent. In the census of 1981 the figures were 90.8 and 89.3 per cent, respectively. As a result of emigration, mainly to the Netherlands, in recent years, the total population has decreased together with the percentage of people born in the Antilles.

Table 8. Population by country of birth and sex (%)

	Census sample 1992			Census 1981		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Aruba	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.4
Bonaire	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0
Curaçao	85.3	81.3	83.2	86.7	84.5	85.6
Windward Islands	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.1
Netherlands	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.4	2.9	3.1
America	2.7	3.7	3.2	2.2	2.4	2.3
Caribbean area	2.3	5.3	3.8	1.3	3.5	2.5
Other	2.5	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 9. School participation rate by age and sex

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-3	36	31	34
4	100	95	98
5	100	100	100
6	100	100	100
7	100	100	100
8	100	100	100
9	100	100	100
10	99	100	99
11	99	100	99
12	99	100	99
13	100	99	99
14	99	99	99
15	98	94	96
16	84	94	89
17	82	85	84
18	51	60	55
19	40	45	42
20	39	28	33
21	21	20	20
22	11	14	13
23	9	2	6
24	8	7	7
25	3	1	7

Work

The unemployment rate in Curaçao in January 1992 was 17.7 per cent. The Labour Force Survey of September 1991 came up with a rate of 16.4 per cent. The effect of seasonal influences is not known and the possibility of sample effects must be borne in mind. Table 10 shows that unemployment is still much higher among women (22. 6 per cent) than among men (13.5 per cent).

The participation rate shows what proportion of the population (in a particular age group) is active on the labour market, either by working or looking for work. Although unemployment is much higher among women, their participation rate is substantially lower (table 10). Participation is highest (90.9 per cent) among men in the 35-44 age group. The highest participation rate among women (75.4 per cent) is found in the 25-34 age group. In the youngest age group, 15-24, there is not much difference in participation between the sexes.

Table 10. Unemployment and participation by age and sex, Curaçao

	Unemployment %			Participation rate		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
15-24	26.0	40.5	32.8	48.9	44.0	46.5
25-34	15.5	23.1	19.2	90.5	75.4	82.4
35-44	10.2	17.4	13.9	90.9	69.6	78.6
45-54	6.4	15.0	9.6	89.0	43.3	63.8
55-64	9.4	12.5	10.4	50.8	22.4	35.9
65+	5.6	10.0	6.5	11.9	2.3	6.3
15-64	13.6	22.6	17.8	75.1	55.6	64.6
15+	13.5	22.6	17.7	69.2	49.6	58.7

Income

In the census the whole population aged 15 and over were asked about their total gross income in the month of January 1992. The distribution of income in table 11 clearly shows the difference in income between those at work and those either looking for work or economically non-active. The latter group consists of those who are neither working nor looking for work; it includes housewives, schoolchildren and pensioners.

Table 11. Those at work, looking for work or economically non-active by income group (%)

	In work	Looking for work	Economically non-active
No income	1.2	60.1	53.3
1-250	1.7	5.3	3.2
251-500	7.5	25.1	24.2
501-750	12.1	5.2	7.2
751-1 000	12.9	1.4	3.1
1 001-1 500	17.7	1.1	3.4
1 501-2 000	12.5	0.4	2.1
2 001-3 000	15.6	0.5	1.8
3 001-4 000	7.5	-	0.4
4 001-6 000	6.2	-	0.1
> 6 000	3.5	0.1	0.2
Unknown	1.5	0.8	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

1. E.g. Unpaid work in family business

The economically non-active have slightly higher incomes than those looking for work. The high percentages of those looking for work or economically non-active in the Af. 251-500 income group are explained by the levels of social security benefits and old age pensions. Not all those looking for work are entitled to social security. More than half of those not working had no income in January 1992.

Occupations

The differences between working men and women with regards to occupation are clearly shown in table 12. Men are overrepresented among legislators, directors and managers and among craftsmen and machine operators. More women than men work as clerks and in service industries such as retailing, hotels and restaurants and nursing. There are also more women among unskilled workers such as domestic staff.

Many of those looking for work want unskilled jobs as domestic staff, labourers or factory and transport workers (Group 9). Many men seek work as building labourers, welders or drivers. Many women would like jobs in the service sector. It is worth noting that only a low percentage are seeking work in highly trained professions (Groups 1, 2 and 3). These include managers and directors, university lecturers, schoolteachers, research assistants and nurses.

Table 12. Those at work and those looking for work by (desired) occupation and sex (%)

Occupational Group*	Working			Looking for work		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1	9.0	3.2	6.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
2	8.6	10.9	9.6	1.0	1.6	1.4
3	14.8	12.2	13.7	1.6	5.1	3.7
4	8.4	28.8	17.2	5.2	18.8	13.2
5	10.6	22.9	15.9	9.2	34.0	23.7
6	1.4	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3
7/8	34.9	2.2	20.8	52.5	1.6	22.7
9	11.7	19.5	15.0	29.5	38.2	34.6
10	0.6	-	0.3	-	-	-
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*
1 Legislators, directors, managers
2 University lecturers, experts
3 Research assistants
4 Clerks
5 Service personnel, shop assistants, market traders
6 Agricultural, forestry and horticultural workers and fishers
7 Craftsmen
8 Machine and plant operators
9 Unskilled
10 Regular military personnel and conscripts

Housing

The dwellings occupied by the households in the census were suitable in 92 per cent of cases, poor in 6 per cent and very poor in 2 per cent. In the 1981 census the figures were 86, 10 and 4 per cent, respectively. The proportion of poor and very poor dwellings has thus dropped from 14 to 8 per cent.

Houses now have better facilities (see figure below). The number of households with a telephone has increased sharply from 5 out of 10 to 8 out of 10. The number of houses without running water or electricity has continued to fall. In 1981, 3 per cent of houses were without running water; now the figure is only 1 per cent. The proportion of houses without electricity dropped from 4 to 2 per cent.

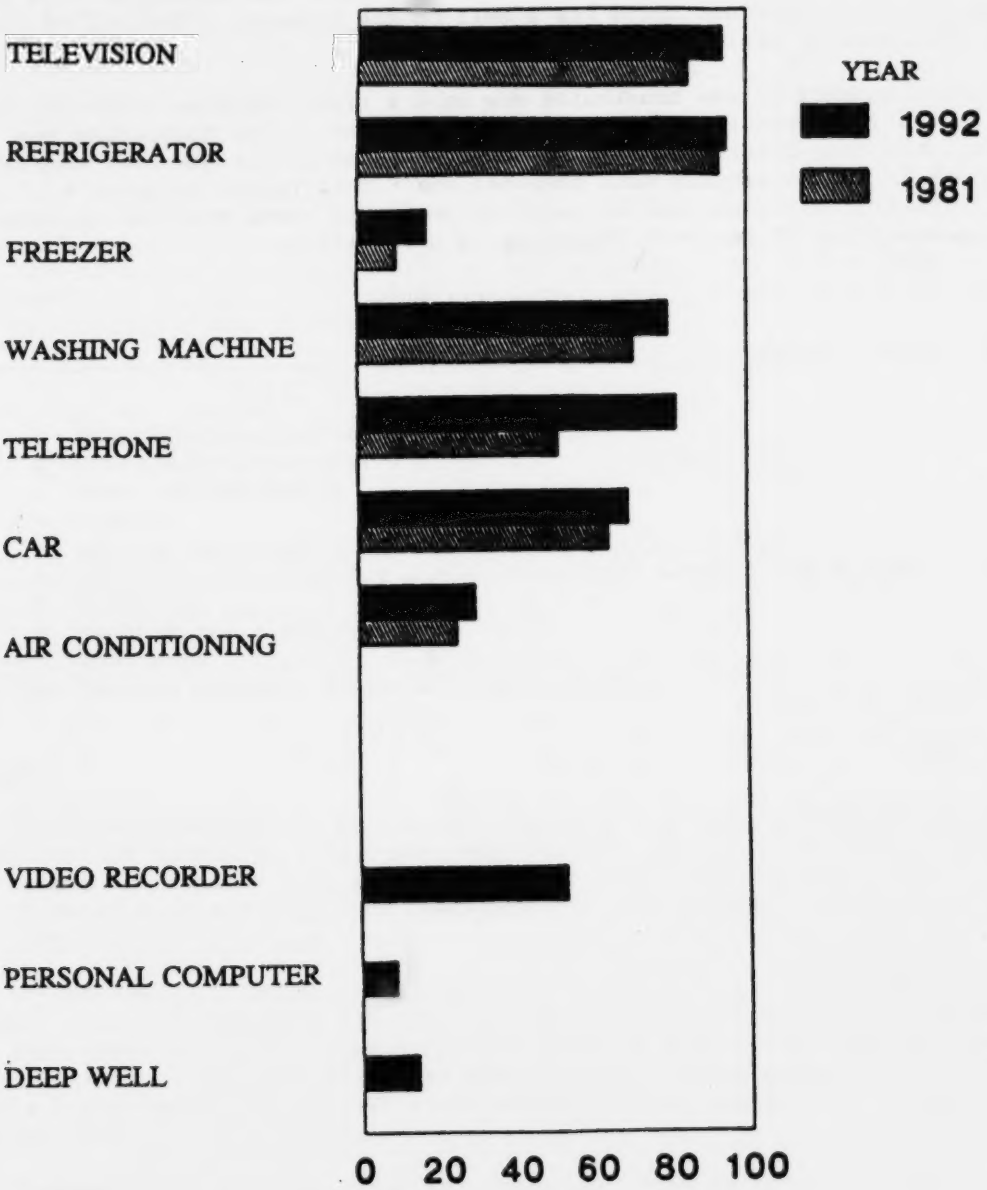
Possession of consumer durables increased: from 85 to 94 per cent in the case of televisions, from 93 to 95 per cent in the case of refrigerators and from 10 to 18 per cent in the case of freezers. The proportion of households

with a washing machine rose from 71 to 80 per cent. The largest consumer of electricity, air-conditioning, continued to gain ground: 30 per cent of households now have one or more units, as opposed to 25 per cent in 1981.

It is fair to assume that consumption of petrol has also increased, since the rate of car ownership rose from 65 to 70 per cent of households. Extraction of groundwater is done mainly by deep or other wells. The census of 1992 asked for the first time whether there was a well on the property. One out of seven households answered affirmative.

More than half of the households now have a video recorder (question first asked in the 1992 census). In addition, 15 per cent of the households can receive cable television channels. Another new item is the personal computer: 9 per cent of the households said they had one. This figure is quite high in view of the fact that the rate of computer ownership among American households is estimated to be 15 per cent (Newsweek, 6 April 1992).

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH



CENSUS 1992 (1981) CURAÇAO

1.4 Constitutional structure

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy with parliamentary democracy. The Queen is the head of State and is represented in the Netherlands Antilles by the Governor.

The Netherlands Antilles has governing bodies at both the central and island levels. The Government of the Netherlands Antilles is formed by the Governor and the Council of Ministers.

The Netherlands Antilles at present consists of five islands (Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba), each of which is autonomous as regards its own affairs. Each island is administered by a Lieutenant-Governor and an Executive Council.

The Parliament (Staten) is the representative body at the central level, while at the island level this function is performed by the Island Council. The Parliament is elected every four years, and in principle all nationals aged 18 or over are entitled to vote and to stand for election. The Island Councils are elected by the same system.

The right of self-determination of each island was explicitly recognized in consultations between the Netherlands Antilles, the islands and the Netherlands in October 1981 in The Hague. The countries and islands taking part in this conference agreed not to oppose the exercising of this right to self-determination. In this way agreement was reached on the right of the people of each island to determine its political future for itself.

Parliament

The parliamentary system is laid down in the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles. The responsibilities of the Parliament are set out in a Standing Order. The two main tasks of the Parliament are to cooperate in creating legislation and to supervise the working of government. To enable it to perform these tasks the Parliament has been granted various powers. For its function as co-legislator, it has the right of amendment; this is the right to make changes to bills introduced by the Government. Any member can propose an amendment. The States also have the right to initiate legislation. To exercise control over the Government, the members of the Parliament have the right of interpellation, the right to put questions to ministers and the right of inquiry. This is the right to request information from one or more ministers.

Island Council

The Island Council is the principal administrative body for each island. According to the Netherlands Antilles Islands Regulation, the Island Council is fully authorized to exercise all the powers of Government with regards to the island's own affairs. Whereas at the central level legislation is brought about by the Governor and Parliament (the Government of the Netherlands Antilles), at the island level the constitutive decision is taken by the Island Council.

Electoral system

The Netherlands Antilles has a multi-party system. The following list includes only those political parties that are active or registered.

Netherlands Antilles: political parties

Curaçao	Bonaire	St. Maarten	Saba	St. Eustatius
P.N.P.	U.P.B	S.P.A.	W.I.P.M	D.P.
FOL/SI	PABOSO	D.P.	D.P.	W.I.P.M
M.A.N.	D.P.	P.D.P.		
D.P.	P.O.B.			
NOS PATRIA				

P.N.P. = Partido Nashonal di Pueblo
FOL/SI = Frente Obrero Liberashon 30 di mei/Social Independiente
M.A.N. = Movimento Antiya Nobo
D.P. = Partido Demokraat
U.P.B. = Union Patriotiko Boneriano
PABOSO = Partido Boneriano Social
P.O.B. = Partido di Obrero Boneriano
S.P.A. = St. Martin Patriotic Alliance
P.D.P. = Progressive Democratic Party
W.I.P.M. = Windward Islands' People Movement

The Netherlands Antilles has a system of proportional representation in which seats are allocated to parties in proportion to the votes cast for them. To be elected one must have a number of votes equal to the total number of votes cast divided by the number of seats to be allocated.

The right to vote is laid down in Article 45 of the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles. Inhabitants of the Netherlands Antilles have the right to vote if they have Dutch nationality and have reached the age of 18. In 1948 the right to vote was granted to those aged 23 and over. In 1973 this age limit was lowered to 18.

According to Article 47 of the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles, all inhabitants aged 21 and over who have Dutch nationality have the right to stand as candidates in elections.

The procedure for determining the result of elections is laid down in the Parliamentary and Island Councils Election Regulations (P.B. 1973, No. 27).

The judiciary

On the basis of the Constitution, the Netherlands Antilles has one Court of Appeal and Courts of First Instance which sit in all the islands. Under a cooperative agreement between Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, the Court of Appeal operates as the Joint Court of Appeal for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The members of the Court of Appeal act as judges, presiding alone, in First Instance Courts.

The independence of the judges is guaranteed in the Constitution through their being appointed for life by the Queen after consultation with the Governor.

On 1 March 1965 the Rules on Appeals in Cassation for the Netherlands Antilles came into effect. Article 1 defines the essence of these rules, which is that an appeal can be made to the Supreme Court in The Hague "in similar cases, in similar fashion and with similar legal consequences as in civil and criminal cases in the Netherlands".

1.5 Legal system

According to the Charter, which occupies the highest place in the hierarchy of legislation, article 2 of the Charter goes on to list the agreements with other powers and with international organizations. International treaties enter into force on basis of and according to the provisions of the Charter.

The procedure for bringing about and promulgating treaties is governed by provisions in the Constitution. The Articles of the Constitution in question refer to the Kingdom, showing that these provisions apply to the whole Kingdom. Moreover, article 5 of the Charter states that the legislative power in Kingdom matters is provided for in the Constitution, in so far as the Charter does not provide for it.

Given that otherwise the procedure for Antillean treaties is similar to those of the other countries within the Kingdom, the reader is referred to the other parts of this report dealing with the Netherlands and Aruba (CEDAW/C/NET/1/Add.2).

PART TWO

2. The position of women

As far as could be determined, there are no restrictions in law on social participation by men or women. Women's aspirations to improve their position in society and to have equal rights did not really take shape in the Antilles until the formation on 15 October 1974 of the "Steering Committee Curaçao", which includes about 60 organizations. Similar steering committees were then set up in each of the other islands. A great deal of energy went into compiling an inventory of laws which discriminated against women in the Netherlands Antilles.

Lectures were organized in neighbourhoods and discussions were held on the action to be taken to promote equal rights for men and women. In 1975 this campaign for emancipation resulted in the abolition by law of the legal incapacity of married women. In the same year the National Committee, including representatives of all the islands, organized a Caribbean Women's Congress in Curaçao which was attended by over 400 women from the region and the United States. This was followed by the Caribbean Congress on Prostitution held in Bonaire in 1978 and the Caribbean Children's Congress held in St. Maarten in 1979.

A delegate from the Netherlands Antilles attended the Women's Conference in Copenhagen (1980) and the Antilles was represented at a conference two years later on St. Kitts on the theme "Women on the move", organized by the Caribbean Women's Association. The women's movement in the Netherlands Antilles is gaining strength; attitudes are changing among both women and men. The Government is now appointing women to bodies and committees on which formerly only men were represented, and these women are accepted and respected.

The dozens of organizations affiliated to the women's movement are active in many fields, including trade unions, politics, service clubs and community centres. Various projects set up by women's groups are coordinated at the island level by the steering committees (e.g., budgeting and family planning, support and advice for young unmarried mothers, care of the mentally and physically handicapped). Since 30 December 1982 the women's movement in Curaçao has had a Women's Centre providing services and courses for women trade union members and others.

Today, thanks to the efforts of the women of the Netherlands Antilles themselves and the role frequently played by non-governmental organizations, women are to be found in virtually every sector of society. Women are still underrepresented, however, in technical fields: construction, aviation and the oil industry. Thus the general participation rate is not yet the same as for men in all sectors. It is not that women are excluded from these sectors, but many are apprehensive about entering them. At the same time the men and women already working in the field may be reluctant to believe that women are qualified to do the work. The same applies to top managerial jobs and to occupations not traditionally associated with women.

There is a tendency among the political parties not to put women very high on their list of candidates at elections, despite the increased number of politically active women.

Whether or not a woman aspires to public office may also be greatly influenced by her ethnic or economic background.

Women's organizations in the Netherlands Antilles, which number over 100, are very active in the social and educational fields. Women are also increasingly prominent in the arts and sport.

Article 1

The principle of equality is the foundation of our legal order and is stated in Article 3 of the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles. This article states that: "All those on the territory of the Netherlands Antilles have an equal right to the protection of person and goods." It is not just a matter of the right to have one's person and goods protected, of course, since the purpose of the article is to state the quality before the law of all citizens.

Article 94 of the Constitution, which applies to the Kingdom as a whole, stipulates that statutory regulations in force within the Kingdom shall not be applicable if such application is in conflict with provisions of treaties that are binding to all persons. Since 1984 the Antillean civil service tribunal has ruled on several occasions that the laws governing the status of civil service of the Netherlands Antilles were in conflict at several points with article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In 1991 the Central Bureau for Legal Affairs presented to the Government and to Parliament an inventory of the laws in conflict with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. A similar inventory of legislation at the island level still has to be carried out. In 1972 a committee was appointed by the Minister of Welfare - the first woman minister in the Netherlands Antilles - to compile an inventory of social and legal discrimination against women. Both these inventories (1972 and 1991), together with court judgements in relation to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and decisions by international organizations, formed the basis for several changes in the law.

These changes included the abolition of the legal incapacity of married women (1975), and the abolition of provisions allowing for the dismissal of married female civil servants and unmarried female civil servants living with a partner. This was combined with the granting of the right of married female civil servants to a pension (1980), the granting of the right of the widower and orphan to the female civil servant's pension (1990), and equal pay for all civil servants regardless of marital status. Given the nature of the previous Government salary rules, this last change benefited women in general and married women in particular (1991-1992).

Both Government and Parliament are in complete agreement that every effort should be made to bring about equal rights for women. The Kingdom of the

Netherlands signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1980 and it came into force for the Kingdom as a whole on 22 August 1991. National judges must apply the international provisions, provided that they are "self-executing" in nature and thus directly applicable. If a citizen believes there has been a case of unfair treatment, i.e., discrimination, she or he can have recourse to the courts.

Article 2

The elimination of discrimination against women was one of the objectives pursued by the various governments from and even before 1975. In that year the Country Ordinance for the Abolition of the Legal Incapacity of Married Women (P.B. 1975, No. 70) came into effect.

The year 1975 is seen as a breakthrough with regards to the legal position of women in general and married women in particular. The Country Ordinance for the Abolition of the Legal Incapacity of Married Women mainly involved changes to the Civil Code. In addition, the Bankruptcy Decree, the code of Civil Procedure of the Netherlands Antilles, the Commercial Registers Ordinance and the Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance 1958 were amended. According to the Explanatory Memorandum and the documents exchanged, the principle of legal incapacity, i.e., the principle whereby a married woman needs the authorization of her husband before she can perform legal acts, did not accord with the value already attributed at that time to women. In general married women thus had to be regarded as being capable of performing legal acts, which would give equal rights to (married) women and (married) men.

In 1983 the Country Ordinance on Civil Service Regulations was amended (P.B. 1983, No. 22). Several articles which discriminated against married women were revoked. They were:

Article 4, subsection 2

In relation to the government or public body a married woman disposes independently of the salary, pension or benefit granted to her as a civil servant or former civil servant.

Article 5, subsection 3 at e

Only unmarried female civil servants may be appointed to temporary posts.

Article 6, subsections 3 and 4

3. Married women are not eligible for permanent appointments as civil servants. They are eligible for temporary appointments only if there is no suitable male or unmarried female candidate for the post in question.

4. An exception to what is stated in the previous subsection may be made if a married woman is required to make a substantial contribution towards meeting the family's basic costs of living.

Article 95, subsections 1 and 2

1. Female civil servants who enter into marriage will be honourably discharged.

2. In exceptional cases female employees may continue to work in temporary posts.

   a. When and for as long as no suitable male or unmarried female candidate can be found;

   b. When and for as long as she is required to make a substantial contribution towards meeting the family's basic costs of living.

Article 96

The female civil servant who lives as a common law wife will be honourably discharged.

These provisions were felt to be discriminatory and were strongly criticized by female government employees, the trade unions and other groups. They were always defended by an appeal to economic and social conditions.

The Government later came to the conclusion that there were no social, cultural, technical or legal objections to deleting these provisions. At that time the Government also expressed the hope that this would be a first step towards removing all provisions which discriminated against women from Netherlands Antilles legislation. The Government felt itself bound to do this because of its commitment to accede without reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 1979).

To this end the Government published an Overview of the statutory regulations which will have to be amended, supplemented or reviewed in the context of ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

On 8 March 1990 an Interdepartmental Advisory Group on Women and Development chaired by the Bureau for Women's Affairs and Humanitarian Matters was set up by ministerial order. The establishment of the Bureau for Women's Affairs and Humanitarian Matters, which was influential in the decision to set up the Interdepartmental Advisory Group, was important as a first step towards eliminating discrimination against women. Through the Advisory Group the various ministries of central Government have come to focus more closely on the problems associated with the position of women in society. So far the Advisory Group has put the emphasis on legislative measures to eliminate discrimination and make women more self-reliant.

It has been less concerned with other aspects of the process of breaking away from traditional role patterns which discriminate against women. For example, less attention has been paid to the way in which within the family these role patterns are passed on to the next generation through the example of the parents and the differences in the upbringing of boys and girls from birth.

The traditional role patterns form part of the customs, values and norms of the population, and hence of its culture. Promoting the process of breaking away from these patterns, to eliminate discrimination against women, must be done with the knowledge and an understanding of how they interrelate with other aspects of the culture. Further research to obtain statistics and other data is essential. The information could give us a clear idea of which aspects of the culture obstruct or further the realization of equal rights, opportunities, freedoms and responsibilities for men and women. An emancipation policy plan derived from this information would have a sounder scientific basis and be more in line with social reality.

Article 3

The enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms referred to in this article of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is guaranteed to all citizens in the Netherlands Antilles in several articles in the Constitution. Each country in the Kingdom of the Netherlands is responsible for realizing basic human rights, the rule of law and sound administration. Safeguarding these is a matter for the Kingdom (under article 43 of the Charter). The rights in question are freedom of religion, of education, and of the press, the right of association and free assembly, the right to petition, the right to be elected or appointed to public office, the right to protection of oneself and one's goods, the right of ownership and the privacy of correspondence.

Article 4

In 1972 a government official with responsibility for advancing the position of women was appointed. In 1986 the Bureau of Welfare, which had assumed this task, was closed as a cost-cutting measure.

Because of the priority which the Government now gives to the development of women, the Bureau for Women's Affairs and Humanitarian Matters was established in 1989. Its task is to act as the coordinating body within central Government for policy aspects affecting women.

The Bureau for Women's Affairs was responsible for the setting up of the Interdepartmental Advisory Group made up of representatives from different ministries. The Group makes policy recommendations to Government and cooperates with similar advisory groups at the island level. It organized the participation of the Netherlands Antilles in the Fifth Regional Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Women's Conference held in Curaçao in 1991. A delegation consisting mainly of members of the Group assisted the Minister of General Affairs, who also chairs the Board of Presiding Officers of the Regional ECLAC Women's Conference for the period 1991-1994.

The Bureau for Women's Affairs and the Bureau for Foreign Relations were responsible for the wide distribution given to the text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

At the initiative of the Bureau for Women's Affairs various committees and working groups were formed, among them the Steering Committee on Violence against Women and the Working Group on Support Services for Workers with Family Responsibilities.

Through the Ministry of Education, the Bureau for Women's Affairs reached an agreement in principle with the University of the Netherlands Antilles for cooperation in education and research on women and development.

Information on international developments in the field is supplied to the islands and the coordinating NGOs. Representatives of the latter are included in government delegations to technical meetings in the region.

Temporary or preferential measures to eliminate de facto inequality are indirectly used on the basis of housing policy. In principle, when allocating houses the Fundashon Kas Popular makes no distinction between women and men. The criterion in each case is the degree of urgency. However, unmarried mother with children form the largest group among those looking for housing and they are accordingly given priority. The same procedure is applied when assessing applications for loans for do-it-yourself house-building and home improvements.

In the event of divorce or an unmarried partner leaving the home, the mother and children generally receive the most attention and preferential treatment.

Over the next 10 years about 1.3 million guilders will be made available to improve the housing stock. Because of the density of population (350 inhabitants/square kilometre), the growth of economic activities and the limited space available, an environmental plan for the long term is now being drawn up.

Article 5

The Government of the Netherlands Antilles takes the view that the mass media have a very great influence on society and the individual and that for this reason these media should be used for aims such as the elimination of prejudice against women and of stereotyped images of them.

While women are beginning to occupy more important positions in society, and in the media, they are still underrepresented in documentary and analytical programmes. In order to increase awareness at the national level, the Bureau for Women's Affairs organizes seminars on this subject in addition to cooperating with the University of the Netherlands Antilles.

There is a need for support from the press for the aim of equal treatment and equal contributions from men and women in society. The government information service is to step up its efforts to provide information on this topic. The Steering Committee on Violence against Women has come to the conclusion that it should include a representative of the press. The Government also supports the work of the very active NGOs in this field of social education.

In divorce cases in the Netherlands Antilles the mother is generally granted custody of the children. During the marriage and after the divorce, the wife is usually more available for the care and upbringing of the children than the man, often because she is a housewife or has only a part-time job. In cases where both parents are equally available after a divorce, the mother is still often granted custody, particularly if the children are young. Since the woman has usually been responsible for looking after the children during the marriage (because of existing role patterns or stereotypes and/or not having a job), there often are or are thought to be closer ties between her and the children. The interests of the children are believed to be better served by ensuring continuity in their relationship with their mother after divorce.

Women are encountered in all sectors of society. The table below shows the relation between employment of women and their level of education.

Employed women by level of education and island, 1988

	St. Mrtn. %	Saba %	St. Eust. %	Bonaire %	Curaçao %
1st level	46.1	42.5	43.3	48.0	36.4
2nd level/1st stage	49.6	42.9	43.9	35.3	40.6
2nd level/2nd stage	40.9	47.1	20.7	30.6	39.2
3rd level/1st stage	48.3	-	34.3	34.7	44.0
3rd level/2nd stage	26.0	55.6	-	31.3	21.6

Article 6

A largely hidden problem is stress among housewives and violence in families. The same applies to child sex abuse in families and rape in general. Among private organizations, the leaders in attempting to cope with these problems are the women's groups of trade unions. They organize information days, carry out campaigns and provide care for victims, mostly housewives. This last aspect is still in its infancy and there is an urgent need in all the islands for refugees for female victims of violence and their children. There should also be more psycho-social counselling available in both the private and public sectors.

In November 1991 a study of physical abuse of women in Curaçao was completed. Caring agencies and other organizations involved were questioned to determine:

(a) To what extent the problem was recognized and the level of knowledge about it;

(b) The approach and action taken when people were confronted with a case of physical abuse;

(c) The steps, including formalities, that victims had to take to be eligible for any form of help.

Twelve organizations completed questionnaires:

1. Department of Social Affairs

The Department is often confronted with physically abused women who have been sent by the police. There are also women who come to the Department because of problems within its field but who then turn out to be the victims of violence. Material help is offered in the form of some kind of financial arrangement and/or accommodation in a hostel for the homeless.

2. Departamentu Salú Mental (DSM)

DSM has several teams which encounter abused women in various ways. These women are then passed on to the "adult team". This is the only body that can offer victims therapeutic help.

3. Curaçao Guardianship Council

The Council protects the welfare of children and through this work it is confronted with mothers (and children) who are the victims of abuse. They are referred to other bodies for treatment.

4. Department of Youth Affairs

This Department occasionally deals, usually indirectly, with cases of abuse.

5. Sedukal/School Advisory Service

The Service is concerned with children with learning difficulties and as a result it comes across cases of abuse. Where necessary, they are referred to other bodies for treatment.

6. Curaçao Family Guardianship Association

The Association cares for abused and neglected children and so often comes into contact with mothers who have also been abused. Where necessary cases are referred to other bodies for treatment.

7. Medical Service for civil servant

The Service is directly confronted with cases of abuse, usually because the employee's work is interrupted. On the third day off the employee is obliged to report to the Service and this is when the "diagnosis" is made. Cases are referred to other bodies for treatment.

8. Witgele Kruis (organization for social medicine)

9. Kwido pa Famia

Cases of abuse are encountered in the course of providing extramural health care including nursing patients at home. Although the nurses are not professionally qualified in the fields of social and psychological help, they cannot avoid offering victims one or other form of assistance as best they can. When possible, cases are referred to professional helpers.

10. Huize Bloem

This is a hostel for the homeless; it has often taken in victims of abuse who had been sent by the Department of Social Affairs. The staff are not fully informed about the different forms of social and psychological help available.

11. Foundation for Child Care and Protection

This body reports that it is not familiar with cases of physical abuse of women and has no experience in the field.

12. Hot line

Most calls are not about physical abuse of women. When this is the case, the caller is referred to other bodies.

Except for the Foundation for Child Care and Protection, all these organizations say they are confronted directly or indirectly by cases of physical abuse of women to a greater or lesser degree. Professional help and counselling, including therapy by psychologists etc., is available only at the Departamentu Salú Mental through its "adult team". Some organizations have social workers who deal with the women initially. The victims usually want to pour their heart out and/or obtain advice.

Article 7

Article 7 of the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles states: All Dutch nationals without distinction of citizenship are eligible to be elected or appointed to any public office and have the right to vote in elections in accordance with the provisions of the Country Ordinance. The Country Ordinance referred to is the Election Regulations.

Article 4 of the Election Regulations reads: The members of the Parliament and of the Island Council are directly elected by those who are inhabitants on the thirtieth day before the day for nominations, as stated in Article 15, provided that they have Dutch nationality and have reached the age at which they are entitled to vote, as stated in Article 45 of the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles, on the day of voting.

Article 45 of the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles reads:

1. Those entitled to vote are the inhabitants of the Netherlands Antilles who have Dutch nationality and have reached the age of 18.

2. If the need becomes apparent when Clause 1 is put into effect, the Election Regulations can impose restrictions; everything else to do with voting rights and the election procedure is decided by these Regulations.

Women in the Netherlands Antilles have the right to vote since 1948, they are not excluded from voting or from standing as candidates.

Persons employed by the Government, 1986-1991

With regard to holding public office, the following table shows the number of civil servants.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Central Government	4 146	3 941	3 590	3 791	3 939	4 207
Island Bonaire	850	784	644	450	515	-
Island Curaçao	5 257	4 209	3 387	3 156	3 202	3 361
Island Saba	-	-	149	152	156	179
Island St. Eustatius	-	227	207	224	201	195
Island St. Maarten	-	730	717	578	727	750

In recruitment and selection for government employment the same norms are applied to both sexes. In the police force, customs and prison services women work on an equal basis, doing the same duties as their male colleagues. Except for the limitation that in prison women work in the women's section and men in the men's section. Women joined the police force as at 15 November 1971, customs as at 11 August 1975 and prison service and as tax inspectors as at 1 January 1979. At present there are two women ranking, respectively, as inspector and assistant inspector among the 15 tax inspectors. One works for the Directorate and the other for the Inspectorate of Taxes. The small number of women has to do with the fact that others who were approached preferred to work for the private sector.

The procedure for promotion of civil servants is laid down by law. The same norms are applied to both sexes for promotion and appraisal and no distinction is made in evaluating jobs. If a person is eligible for promotion and if he or she is thought to be suitable and capable, promotion should follow.

Day care for children is not provided by employers, whether private or Government, in the Netherlands Antilles. The Government does, however, subsidize a number of private child care centres. The salaries of the employees at these crèches are paid by Government and parents with low incomes can apply for grants. These are given on the basis of ability to pay.

Pregnant women enjoy legal protection from doing certain kind of work. Under article 17 of the Country Ordinance on Employment 1952 (P.B. 1952, No. 93), an employer may not require a pregnant women to carry out duties that could damage her health or involve physical danger. This Ordinance regulates working hours, bans child labour and makes it illegal for women and young people to do night work or dangerous work. Article 17 states that it is forbidden to have women and young people do night work or work defined as dangerous by Governor's Decree, whether or not for wages or compensation. There is currently some debate on the question of whether women should still be forbidden to do night work.

A scheme providing for maternity leave for female civil servants was introduced by circular No. 8268/PZ of 19 February 1974. At first this scheme applied only to married women but by circular No. 7354/PZ of 7 February 1979 it was extended to cover unmarried women. The regulations read as follows: "Female civil servants or employees who have been employed for 180 days will be granted leave in the event of a pregnancy, unless on sick leave, beginning on the day six weeks before the birth may be expected, as indicated by a doctor's declaration as to the probable date of birth, and extending to six weeks after the birth. Maternity leave is granted on full salary as defined in article 4 of the Regulations on Holiday and Leave for Civil Servants (P.B. 1969, No. 44) and article 3 of the Regulations on Holiday and Leave for Employees (P.B. 1971, No. 85)."

In the past employees sometimes continued working until one or two weeks before the birth and then took the unused maternity leave together with the six weeks leave due to them after the birth. So circular No. 3237/PZ of 16 June 1991 laid down that in future there would be no deviations from the regulations quoted above.

At present the rule is that maternity leave is granted for six weeks before the probable date of birth and for six weeks after that date. If birth takes place earlier there is no right to more leave, and if it takes place later than expected there is no reduction in the six weeks' leave after birth.

Part-time work is possible, but as yet it is not governed by a formal set of rules. Consequently, people in part-time jobs are not covered by a pension scheme.

In order to create employment, the Government has taken the first step towards a scheme for part-time work for civil servants. A working group has

been formed by representatives of all the relevant ministries and departments. Its task is to make alterations to the articles in question to facilitate part-time working, mainly for civil servants only. It is expected that at a later stage private employers will follow this example and give their workers similar opportunities.

The Government's reasons for promoting part-time work are as follows:

To the extent that part-time work serves to redistribute work, it is useful in creating employment;

It fits in with the aim of increasing women's economic independence; the emancipatory effect will be greater as part-time work becomes more common at middle and higher levels of management;

Current developments such as the need for variety in production and the size and growth of the service sector;

Positive side effects for the elderly and disabled can be expected; it provides a solution for those who are unwilling or unable to work full time e.g., because of age or disability.

There are several trade unions in the Netherlands Antilles, including a Civil Servants Trade Union, in which both men and women are represented as officers and ordinary members. The trade unions also play an important part in women's education. Women are trained in leadership and trade union matters.

Article 8

With regard to whether women have opportunities to represent their Government at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations, we will look at the opportunities for women to take part in conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. organized by international bodies and to work in programmes and projects set up by them.

On the grounds of international agreements concluded by the Kingdom, the Netherlands Antilles can become a member of international organizations if it so desires (article 28, Charter). A formal agreement with the Kingdom is not always required for the Netherlands Antilles to be a member, associate member or observer, etc. This depends on the rules of the organization. The Bureau for Foreign Relations coordinates between the Government and the international organizations to which the Netherlands Antilles is a member. Official contacts are also maintained with the United Nations organizations and regional bodies such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The Department is at the same time the point of contact for the national bodies responsible for implementing the programmes and projects of international organizations. It should be said that the status of the Netherlands Antilles within international and regional organizations determines the degree of participation in their activities.

The Bureau for Foreign Relations plays an important role when the Netherlands Antilles receives invitations from international organizations to participate in conferences, plenary sessions, seminars, etc. (whether in the

form of a Kingdom delegation or independently as an associate member or observer, etc.). Three (female) members of staff at the Bureau for Foreign Relations are members of the Interdepartmental Advisory Group on Women and Development. A continuous effort is made in the context of the Bureau's activities to take account of women's development.

Whether the Netherlands Antilles has opportunities to participate in international programmes and projects of special importance for the advancement and development of women, the following can be said: the Government shares as an associate member in the work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) of ECLAC. It also participates in ECLAC/CDCC programmes and projects specifically for women. One example is the CDCC project "Suitcase Traders in the Caribbean and Free Zone of Curaçao". The aim of this study was to make policy recommendations to improve the situation of these women traders.

On the basis of its associate membership in ECLAC/CDCC, the Netherlands Antilles was able to chair several United Nations Caribbean meetings and also host, for example, the Twelfth CDCC Session in 1989. For a period of three years, up to 1994, the Netherlands Antilles will be chairing the United Nations Fifth Regional ECLAC Conference on the Integration of Women into Economic and Social Development. This means that during this period the ECLAC women's programmes and projects initiated under the chairmanship of the Netherlands Antilles will be coordinated through the instrument of the "presiding officers". The Netherlands Antilles hosted this Conference in September 1991.

In May 1992 the Netherlands Antilles hosted the thirteenth meeting of presiding officers. One aim of its policy is to try to ensure that within the United Nations consideration is given to element of Caribbean policy in the preparations for the World Conference on Women in 1995.

With regards to other regional organizations, since 1988 the Netherlands Antilles has been an observer at various standing committees of ministers of CARICOM. The first steps have been taken towards taking part (in the near future) in CARICOM's annual ministers - meetings on women's affairs or the technical meetings on cooperation in policy towards women.

Women's advancement in many countries is supported by a unique partnership between national and international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental. The Bureau for Foreign Relations has the overview and the knowledge of the international network to provide a flow of information for support and recognition.

All too often national women's organizations and institutions find it difficult to gain access to these networks. The Bureau for Foreign Relations provides coordination and assistance in getting access to external sources of help (both financial and technical) through international organizations. It plays an important intermediary role by pointing out the routes to be followed to secure such help.

Attempts are made to increase participation by women in delegations to meetings of international organizations. In this way and through the efforts of the Bureau for Foreign Relations and the Bureau for Women's Affairs, women have

opportunities to represent the Government of the Netherlands Antilles at international level and to take part in the programmes and projects of international and regional organizations.

The representation of the Kingdom is covered by the Decree on Foreign Service Regulations. The Foreign Service falls under the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom.

Civil servants from the Netherlands Antilles can be temporarily seconded to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. At the present three civil servants, including one woman, are seconded to the Foreign Service.

Article 9

Citizenship is a matter of the Kingdom (under article 3, clause 1, preamble at c of the Charter for the Kingdom). For this reason citizenship is the subject of a Kingdom Act and is the responsibility of the Minister of Justice of the Kingdom.

On 1 January 1985 a new Kingdom Act on Netherlands Citizenship came into force. This lays down how citizenship is obtained and lost. The age of majority - as far as the law is concerned - is set at 18 years for men and women. This means that naturalization can be applied for as soon as the age of 18 is reached, but also from the same age one no longer shares in the naturalization of one's parent.

The legal position of men and women was made the same. The children of a woman who is a Dutch citizen acquire citizenship at birth, thus gaining the right previously enjoyed only by the children of a male Dutch citizen. The non-Dutch husband of a Dutch woman acquires citizenship in the same way and under the same conditions as the non-Dutch wife of a Dutch husband.

Dutch citizenship can be acquired in several ways, by law, by option and by naturalization. For the rest the reader is referred to Part One of this report dealing with the Netherlands.

Article 10

According to the policy document issued by the Netherlands Antilles Ministry of Education, education policy must be structurally anchored in a national development policy aimed at the integrated development of Antillean society. The starting point thus is that developments taking place in the broad context of the national development policy must be supported by education. Both development and education policy must serve to further the well being and the development of the individual and the community as a whole.

Among the groups requiring particular attention or special policy guidelines are women, as well as the unemployed, young people and the disabled. The document states: "Because of their sex, women do not participate sufficiently in economic, political, social and cultural life and consequently they cannot fully develop their potential and capabilities".

The document gives no specific guidelines with regard to women or other groups named in the education system, nor does it state objectives to be pursued in connection with their participation in this system. It does, however, set out the following general aims for physical, social and mental development in education:

(a) The promotion of physical well being through sport in and out of school and recreation by creating the facilities required;

(b) The promotion of the social, economic and political articulateness of the population;

(c) The promotion of a process of raising awareness, particularly as regards the history of our society;

(d) The promotion of self-reliance;

(e) The promotion of genuine acceptance of other people and of a sense of nationhood so that tendencies leading to the rejection or exclusion of the other on the grounds of ethnic origin, religion or social status are opposed;

(f) The promotion of the population's sense of social responsibility.

The following basic requirements would have to be met to ensure a greater degree of democratization in education (including equal access, staying on at school and success in finding employment):

Increased availability of educational facilities; the introduction of a system of free education; the introduction of compulsory education (effective from 1 January 1992); and facilities such as school transport, school meals and free medical care at school;

Adaptation of education to the local social and cultural circumstances, reflected mainly in the choice of the language of instruction (at the present mainly still Dutch, whereas 95 per cent of the population speak Papiamento); adaptation of the structure and content of training courses for teachers, the content of curricula and the nature of teaching material; the creation of a system for second chance education;

Reducing the differences between schools, since at present these give rise to the growth of a hierarchical and selective educational system.

There is equal access to all school types and equal opportunity as regards educational facilities. In practice, however, few girls opt for the type of school traditionally chosen by boys, such as technical schools. In January 1992 the only secondary technical school in Curaçao had 422 pupils, of whom just 37 were girls. They had all previously obtained their certificate of junior general secondary education.

There is a preponderance of women in the traditionally female occupations such as teaching and health care. In teaching the percentages of female staff are as follows:

Nursery schools	100%
Primary schools	80%
Domestic science and elementary technical and administrative schools	90%
General secondary and pre-university schools	50%

In lower technical schools, 90 per cent of the teachers are men. The figure is the same for the University of the Netherlands Antilles. So it is quite clear that as the level rises, or the type of education changes, the percentage of women staff falls.

Many children drop out of primary school and are thus unable to follow normal secondary education. They end up in three special schools, two for girls and one for boys. This ratio more or less reflects the numbers of each sex. Against this background it is remarkable that more girls than boys obtain a certificate of secondary education, and the tendency at present is for more girls to go on to higher vocational education and university.

Figures issued by the Ministry of Education inspectorate show that in the last year 941 boys and 1,688 girls obtained the certificate of junior general secondary education. Certificates of senior general secondary education and pre-university education were obtained by 671 boys and 972 girls (excluding one secondary school where 253 pupils passed but the ratio of boys to girls is not given).

The setting up of the Pro Alfa foundation is Curaçao marks the adoption of a more structural approach to the problem of illiteracy. Lessons are given in nine districts and the language of instruction is Papiamentu. Pro Alfa's three-year curriculum is as follows:

1st year: reading and understanding what is read;

2nd year: arithmetic and social skills;

3rd year: reading/arithmetic/a range of basic skills.

At a workshop on language policy in the Netherlands Antilles held under the auspices of the Ministry of Education in February 1992, Pro Alfa reported that the age of the students ranged from 15 to 74 and that most of them worked. Pro Alfa believes that the rate of illiteracy in Curaçao is high. It used to be thought to be 10 per cent, but based on field work the foundation has found the rate to be 20 per cent. This is the total percentage and there are no exact data on the breakdown by sex, but women form the majority of those attending illiteracy courses.

Article 11

The Government promotes employment opportunities through the following measures.

There is a Central Employment Office whose task is:

(a) To monitor compliance with the statutory regulations dealing with employment mediation;

(b) To mediate between employers and those seeking work who are resident in different islands and between employers in the Netherlands Antilles and those in other countries seeking work and vice versa;

(c) To collect and publish data on the state of the labour market in the Netherlands Antilles and abroad.

Public employment mediation is defined as:

(a) Mediation between employers and those seeking work in the island concerned and the collection of data needed for such mediation;

(b) Providing information or otherwise cooperating in public education about career choices and the promotion of training in the island concerned.

The Government also tries to create employment by granting tax concessions to eligible businesses.

There are no statutory measures explicitly outlawing discrimination against women, nor is there a legal requirement to give equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. None the less, equal treatment is ensured through legal precedents and international treaties which apply in the Netherlands Antilles.

With regard to pension rights, the retirement age is the same for men and women; men and women contribute equally to their pension funds; and women are covered by their husband's pension scheme and vice versa.

The law governing dismissal is laid down in the Country Ordinance on Ending Contracts of Employment. Under this law a committee advises the director of the Department of Labour and Social Affairs on all requests submitted for contracts of employment to be ended.

Article 4 states in:

Subsection 1. The employer is forbidden to end the contract of employment without permission from the director.

Subsection 2. The above does not apply in the following cases:

a. if employment is ended for urgent reasons that have been immediately explained to the employee;

b. if employment is ended by mutual agreement;

c. if employment is ended during the probation period.

This Ordinance does not apply to the contracts of employment of:

(a) Employees of a corporate body;

(b) Teaching staff working in educational institutions controlled by a natural or legal person;

(c) The clergy;

(d) Women employees who mainly or exclusively perform household tasks or personal services in the households of private persons.

According to article 16150 of the Civil Code of the Netherlands Antilles, either party can end the contract of employment without notice or without observing the rules governing dismissal, but the party who does this without the agreement of the other party is liable to pay compensation unless employment is ended for urgent reasons of which the other party was immediately informed.

The dismissal of civil servants is governed by the Country Ordinance on Civil Service Regulations. If an employee is found to be unsuitable for a post he or she can be dismissed.

Care of the elderly is to a large extent concerned with women, and most of the residents in homes are women. We also have "open care for the elderly", with a large proportion of women clients.

There are no exact figures on care for the disabled. This type of care is often a great help to women since housewives traditionally bear the burden of home care.

Only in the field of mental health care there are day centres for the handicapped. In Curaçao institutional facilities for the mentally and physically handicapped up to the age of 18 have recently been opened. After reaching the age of 18 the patients have to return to the family home. Economic participation by women with work outside the home is limited by the care to provide for the handicapped at home.

Since 1975 women in the Netherlands Antilles, like those in many other countries, have organized themselves to express their dissatisfaction to the limits imposed by power structures and discriminatory male dominance. Growing awareness and a higher level of organization among women have contributed to the Government and international aid organizations becoming more sensitive with regard to women's interests. Partly as a result, it has been possible for some time to use development funds for projects in the field of women and development.

It is possible to finance "women's projects" from funds provided by various donors, but as yet little use has been made of this facility. Most of the

projects so far proposed and carried out have done little for the development of women in the Netherlands Antilles. They were mainly in traditional fields such as crafts, sewing, flower arranging, etc. So far there have been no proposals for projects aimed at increasing women's participation in the productive sectors of the economy and integrating them into the decision-making process.

The Government and the various donors are currently giving greater attention to the question of women and development. This is reflected in the programme for the "fifth cycle for the country programme" for the Netherlands Antilles and in the National Indicative Programme financed by the Seventh European Development Fund.

In order to give more substance to the idea of women and development, a policy framework on this theme is now being prepared. Several ministries and other bodies are conducting a survey of the organization and nature of the various projects in this field. Otherwise the reader is referred to the sections on the economy and employment in the general part and to what has been said under article 7 of this report.

Article 12

All health care services are available to both men and women. Services especially intended for women include the maternity clinic and "Nos tei pa otro", a centre for women drug addicts. All the islands have district nurses, maternity care, health centres and organized neighbourhood care by qualified personnel.

The number of midwives is beginning to decrease, while gynaecologists care for women and their reproductive functions both in hospital and in private practice. Family doctors and specialists can carry out Pap smears and refer patients in cases of uterine or other forms of cancer.

In 1965 the Foundation for Responsible Parenthood (Famia Plania) was established. Its aim was to promote the idea that parenthood should be the result of a carefully considered decision. It provides the information and the services to facilitate such decisions.

At first the Government provided only a minuscule grant. In 1971, however, as part of the conditional infrastructural improvements to the Netherlands Antilles, the Dutch Government made substantial funds available to Famia Plania. The Government of the Netherlands Antilles agreed to the condition that it would become responsible for the funding after three years.

Since then, however, due to financial constraints, the Government has not only been unable to increase the grant in line with inflation but was forced to cut back the amount originally provided. Fortunately, this cut has been partly compensated for by funds from the International Planned Parenthood Federation, which also supplies Famia Plania with all the free contraceptives it needs for free distribution to users or acceptors. The island Governments provide free medical, maternity and post-natal care and free contraceptives for those of limited means.

In 1991 the numbers of contraceptives distributed by Famia Plania were:

Intrauterine devices (Copper T-380A)	2,230
Three-monthly injections (Depo-Provera)	3,140 inj
Oral contraceptives (the "pill")	52,241 cycles
Condoms	51,600

Many arrange birth control through their family doctor, and contraceptives - with the exception of condoms - are supplied on prescription by pharmacies. Condoms are available in supermarkets, chemists and slot machines. Famia Plania provides its contraceptives through two of its own so-called model clinics and 37 cooperating clinics on Curaçao (24), Bonaire (6) and St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius (7).

The number of women within the limits of the reproductive phase are 48,000 and vary between the ages of 15 and 44.

The value of the contraceptives made available each year by the International Planned Parenthood Federation is many times greater than its financial gifts. To a large extent responsible family planning by the population of the Netherlands Antilles is in fact subsidized by other countries.

Given the limited size of the islands of the Netherlands Antilles, and thus the short distances between the many cooperating clinics, and given the good roads, relatively cheap public transport, free six-monthly medical checks and free distribution of contraceptives, it is fair to say that birth control is within the reach of everyone.

So it is all the more regrettable that there are still so many unwanted pregnancies. It is thought that the number of abortions is rather high, although no official figures exist. Possible reasons for the insufficient use of birth control facilities include:

Lack of frequent publicity about birth control because of a shortage of funds at Famia Plania;

Lack of long-term planning with regard to the number of children wanted and spacing pregnancies and lack of the discipline required to use birth control methods consistently and properly;

Inadequate knowledge of human reproduction and its control.

Students at the College of Education are not taught a methodology for the human biology as component of the subject "Nature study". In general the subject of human reproduction is inadequately covered at almost all primary schools, although there are no legal restrictions on this point. Concepts such as ovulation, ovary, Fallopian tube, egg cell, sperm cell, spermaduct and hormones are completely unknown to pupils at the end of primary school, as are proper and correct terms for the visible genitalia. This is all still taboo.

Famia Plania gives lessons in birth control at as many schools as possible but has to begin by teaching pupils about human reproduction, a task which it believes should be done by primary schools. In secondary education, and particularly in the technical schools where most pupils are boys, the subject of human reproduction is not sufficiently considered, let alone birth control. This is in spite of the fact that the topic is of such importance at this age.

Partly as a result of these serious deficiencies in the educational system, there are various mistaken ideas about how different methods of contraception work and their effects on the body. Some women do not practise birth control because of such ideas.

The following figures are available on the work of Famia Plania in Curaçao:

1. Lessons in schools: "Responsible family planning and birth control"

   1,217 pupils, ages 11-18, 67 mornings

   Note: Famia Plania on Curaçao employs only 5 people, 2 of whom give lessons at school in addition to their medical and managerial work.

   There are about 90 schools in Curaçao, so obviously Famia Plania cannot give lessons at all of them.

2. Other groups:

   Oil refinery: 22 operators, 4 mornings.

   A temporary refuge for pregnant girls, "Kas Bruder Pius"; 11 girls, 2 evenings.

   Several youth groups (e.g., Boy Scouts): 83 boys, 4 weekends.

   Parents of primary schoolchildren: 253 parents, 1 evening.

   Personal visits to women after childbirth: 3 times a week in 3 maternity clinics. Number of women visited: 1,243, of whom 55 have had sterilization.

   Congratulatory messages sent to engaged couples with an offer of free medical supervision and free contraceptives; 790 messages sent.

3. Mass media:

   2 very large billboards (10 metres long) in the central market promoting family planning clinics.

   4 radio talks.

   Participation in 2 information days.

The following figures are taken from the medical statistics kept by Famia Plania in Curaçao:

Years	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
New acceptors	1 763	1 781	1 751	2 219	1 943
Acceptor visits	9 078	9 130	9 053	9 526	9 214

1991	OC	IUD	Cond.	Depo	Jelly	Foam
New acceptors						
Total 1 943	1 040	251	436	213	2	2
Continuing acceptors						
Total 2 732	1 540	384	220	576	5	7
Contraceptive visits						
Total 9 214	5 208	894	1 230	1 861	10	11

Non-contraceptive visits	Preg. test	Pap. test	Counselling	Infertility	Other
Total 599	149	260	154	4	32

Integration of Family Planning Service Delivery into the Government and Private Health Care System

In a number of cooperating clinics, the recording of acceptors and their visits remains deficient.

The number of contraceptives issued indicates a greater number of acceptors than the ones recorded. Therefore, we are now in the process of installing family planning desks in several government clinics where one of our nurses will attend family planning acceptors. In that case recording will be accurate. It will be understood that we cannot do so in all cooperating clinics.

Life expectancy at birth male	71.1
Life expectancy at birth female	75.8
Maternal mortality (per 10,000 live births)	5.6

Live births per 1,000 women 15-44 years '89

Netherlands Antilles	57.42
Bonaire	70.50
Curaçao	76.57
Saba	79.44
St. Eustatius	61.83
St. Maarten	54.17

Source: Island Registry Offices; the Curaçao Perinatal Survey, Wilschut, 1988.

It is not easy to determine the number of women checked or treated during pregnancy. It is known, however, that 98 per cent of births in Curaçao take place in a hospital or clinic.

Vital statistics on births in rate per 1,000 population and on stillbirths and infant deaths, in rates per 1,000 births
Curaçao 1986

	Male	Female	Total
Birth rate (total)	9.7	9.5	19.2
Live birth rate	9.5	9.4	19.0
Still birth rate	14.2	11.8	13.0
Infant death rate (total)	20.6	19.8	20.1
Perinatal mortality rate	28.4	26.1	27.33
Neonatal death rate 0-6 days	14.2	14.4	14.3
Infant death rate 7-27 days	1.3	2.0	1.6
Infant death rate 28 days-11 months	5.1	3.3	4.2
Infant death rate 1-4 years	-	0.6	0.3

Perinatal mortality in Curaçao is high. From 1979 to 1983 the perinatal mortality rate averaged 25.1 and in 1986 it reached 27.3. Both the government and the private sector are paying particular attention to this problem.

The figures on the main causes of death among women date from 1986 and relate only to Curaçao. For an overview of Curaçao and Bonaire in 1987, see appendix IV.

A recent study has shown that the number of perinatal deaths in the Netherlands Antilles is higher than in the rest of the region. This study has given rise to several projects, including a regional cooperative scheme financed by the European Community to prevent perinatal deaths and a project organized by the Neutral District Nursing Foundation to provide information and counselling for young, often unmarried expectant mothers. The causes cited for the high perinatal mortality are requesting maternity care too late and poor diet or even in some cases malnutrition of the mother. It was also found that there was a need to educate men and women about the reproductive process at an early age in order to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Article 34, 2 of the Regulations on combating infectious diseases (P.B. 1921 No. 66), as amended, states:

> "The local chiefs of police shall maintain ... a register giving the names, ages ... of those persons of the female sex who make a profession or habit of fornicating with persons of the other sex."

The Ministry of Health and the Environment has set in motion the process of amending these regulations, and particularly article 34, 2-7. Because this article discriminates against women, the words "of the female sex" will be deleted. At the same time the phrase "with persons of the other sex" will be altered to "with other persons".

The various health insurance schemes for civil servants of the central Government and islands (P.B. 1986, No. 165), the pro paupere card holders and retired government employees, and employees covered by the Social Insurance Bank scheme (P.B. 1966, No. 15) are different in type and in the way they operate. The concept of "medical treatment", for example, is defined in different ways by the various bodies. This has significant consequences for women since Pap smears to detect cervical cancer are paid for by one organization and not by another. The same goes for expenses connected to giving birth. By introducing a general health insurance scheme with a basic range of services, the government hopes to eliminate the disparities between different schemes which lead to discrimination against some of those insured. There are no legal provisions or cultural factors restricting women's access to health care. It is, however, the case that a group consisting of the wives and children of those insured by the Social Insurance Bank are not being covered by any scheme. It is assumed that, because of financial constraints, some people in this group are not privately insured either.

Civil servants have a guarantee card entitling them to an allowance towards medical expenses for the whole family. In the event of marital problems the husband may refuse to let the wife or child use the card, thus denying them access to health care. In such cases, however, they have recourse to law.

Genital mutilation of women does not occur in the Netherlands Antilles. With regard to the role of the Antillean Government in taking all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care, efforts are being made to play an active part in international policy-making by providing greater access to and opportunities for participation in international organizations concerned with this field. This will enable women to take part not only in projects and programmes specifically to do with women's health, but in international and regional meetings, workshops and seminars held by these organizations. In this way access will be gained to important information about health care for women and this can be used for educational purposes.

Pan American Health Organization

To achieve more effective international cooperation in public health, the Antillean Government hopes to work more closely with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which acts as the regional body of the World Health

Organization. The Netherlands Antilles participates in this forum as part of the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

During a recent working visit to the PAHO, the Minister spoke of a "willingness and commitment to strengthen the collaboration ties with the PAHO" and expressed a desire "to initiate relationships with other regional organizations and health initiatives in the region". It was also said that the Government aimed at increased participation by Antilleans in the PAHO. This would also mean greater opportunities for participation in programmes and projects aimed at improving women's health, e.g., "Women's health and development", "Mother and childcare and family planning", etc. PAHO also has scientific programmes aimed at preventing infection by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

CARICOM - Health

Since 1988 the Netherlands Antilles has participated as an observer in the Standing Committee of Ministers of Health of CARICOM. This Committee is responsible for policy plans, priorities and recommendations thought to be of value in promoting public health. CARICOM works together with PAHO in the project "Women's health and development" and in "Caribbean cooperation in health", which includes "Maternal and child health and population and AIDS".

Caribbean Institute of Perinatology

This Institute is located in Curaçao and is concerned with perinatal care in the Caribbean area. As an international, independent body, its task is to set out the criteria and requirements perinatal care should meet and to provide assistance to this end. The institute works together with PAHO/WHO and CARICOM.

Caribbean Medical Research Council

In April 1992 the Netherlands Antilles was not only the host country for the thirty-seventh annual meeting of this organization but was also admitted to the conference as an observer. The Antillean Government hopes to achieve a higher status within the Council. Its task is to advise on and support research into needs and priorities in public health in the region, including in relation to women.

Caribbean Epidemiology Centre

For many years the Government of the Netherlands Antilles has shown an interest in this body, which is affiliated to PAHO. The Minister of Health visited the Centre's headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago to see, among other things, what was being done about combating AIDS in the Caribbean.

The Antillean Government formalized a request for parliamentary approval of the Kingdom's accession to the treaty establishing the Centre. Increasing attention is to be given to strengthening the epidemiological infrastructure and to efficient dissemination of information with the aim of calling a halt to the spread of the AIDS virus, largely transmitted by heterogeneous contacts, in the Caribbean.

Altogether the Antillean Government is increasingly active in policy planning for health care at the international and regional levels, showing a special interest in women's health. The achievement in 1988 of observer status with the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Health opened up many opportunities to participate in other regional forums on health care.

As stated above in the section dealing with article 8 of the Convention, the Government's aim is to gain greater access for national women's organizations and bodies (such as the Bureau for Women's Affairs) to international and regional organizations in order to promote the active involvement of women in policy planning in health care at the international and regional levels.

Health education in relation to HIV

The health education programmes organized by the AIDS committee pay special attention to the role of women. They point out that HIV infection in mothers can result in the birth of HIV-positive babies. It is emphasized that a woman can become the unwitting victim of HIV infection acquired by her partner in promiscuous extramarital relationships. Television commercials urge women to be vigilant and point out to men that their promiscuous behaviour exposes their partner to the danger of infection. An appeal has been made to women to help to combat HIV infection by educating their partners.

There are special education programmes for sex workers in which doctors at health centres provide care and information in confidence. The AIDS committee has commissioned a special TV programme about sex workers and AIDS in which local and foreign women are interviewed. Leaflets are available in Spanish for the foreign sex workers, many of whom are Spanish-speaking.

The AIDS information programme broadly follows the recommendations made under article 15, and the following concrete example illustrates this. At the initiative of the AIDS committee, two persons from the Fundashon pa desempleado have been chosen to carry out AIDS education in their own circle; this is based on the belief that the message will be transmitted more clearly if this is done by and among persons with the same frame of reference. The two persons chosen will receive a modest monthly fee of (Af. 300).

The campaign to prevent discrimination against HIV patients has ensured that in hospitals and medical care in general there are very rarely any difficulties in the nursing of HIV and AIDS patients. To a large extent this is due to the knowledge that AIDS can only be transmitted by sexual or blood contact.

Surveys have been made to assess women's role, their knowledge and their views on sex in general and situations such as extramarital relations which involve a health risk. The results show that women are as well informed about HIV as men. A complete overview of the health statistics is given in appendices IV, V, VI and VII.

Article 13

In this connection the fiscal legislation of the Netherlands Antilles should be considered together with Article 130 of the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles, which reads as follows: "No privileges may be granted in the matter of taxation".

Under the Country Ordinance on Income Tax 1943 (P.B. 1956, No. 9), women working outside the home enjoy some tax concessions as an incentive to work.

P.B. 1981, No. 378 relating to a fixed deduction up to a maximum of fl. 500 (under Section 8, 1 of the Country Ordinance on Income Tax 1943). A tax reduction of 10 per cent is granted as provided for under Section 25A of the Country Ordinance on Income Tax 1943. In the case of child allowance under Section 23A of the same Ordinance it makes no difference whether the taxpayer is a male or female.

Social rights are safeguarded by both international and national measures. Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, hereafter referred to as the ESOCUL Covenant, obliges the States who are parties to the Covenant to work towards the gradual realization of the rights stated in it. Some of its provisions are intended to prevent discrimination. Article 3 of the ESOCUL Covenant obliges the States to guarantee social and cultural rights.

In practice, article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has come to play a role in the right to social security, which is part of the ESOCUL Covenant. This has to do with the fact that, unlike the ESOCUL Covenant, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights established a judicial body which determines whether these rights have been violated. The Kingdom as a whole is party to the optional protocol which makes it possible for a State to recognize the power of the Commission on Human Rights to make judgements on the basis of complaints from individuals. The Country Ordinances in the area of social security are those dealing with accident insurance, general old-age insurance, the general survivor's pension scheme and Cessantia.

When applying for loans from a bank or other financial institution, women are treated in principle in the same way as men. National legislation (in this case the Civil Code) does stipulate, however, that in the case of a married couple both partners are held responsible for agreements entered into in order to keep the household running normally. If a married couple maintain a joint household, both partners must cooperate with regard to, for example, a loan or in the event of a purchase to be paid for in instalments.

Article 14

Because of its size, topography, well-developed communication network of paved roads, bus service and favourable telephone service, it is not easy to define the rural sector in the Netherlands Antilles.

Article 15

The principle of equality is one of the basic laws which have become widely accepted in the Netherlands Antilles in the 1980s. As one of the central features of the rule of law, the principle of equality has traditionally played a crucial role in legal thinking. In the last few decades it has taken shape in a series of international treaties.

As stated above in the section on article 2 of this report, the principle of equality is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles. Article 3 of the Constitution states that everyone is equal before the law and that the Government must protect and respect everyone's rights equally. This cannot mean, however, that all are treated equally under all circumstances. In many cases the law is forced to make distinctions according to generally accepted standards, for example between adults and minors or, in the case of taxation, between those with high and low incomes. While the permissibility, in principle, of such distinctions is recognized, Article 3 of the Constitution must be read as an order to treat similar cases in similar ways.

In the Netherlands Antilles, however, international treaties are more important instruments in protecting the principle of equality. Under article 5, clause 1 of the Charter of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Articles 93 and 94 of the Dutch Constitution apply equally to the Netherlands Antilles. Statutory regulations in force within the Netherlands Antilles are therefore not applicable if such application is in conflict with provisions of international treaties that are binding on all persons. In interpreting such treaty provisions, courts in the Antilles are in principle bound by the interpretation given to them by the Council of Europe and the Human Rights Committee. Furthermore, an inhabitant (male or female) of the Netherlands Antilles can have recourse to these institutions provided that all means of redress in national law have been exhausted.

The principles of equality and no discrimination are safeguarded in various provisions of international law. The relevant international treaties which apply in the Netherlands Antilles are:

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Article 16

The minimum age for marriage is 15 for women and 18 for men. The Governor has the power, if there are weighty reasons, to grant exemption from the ban on marrying below these ages. The age of majority is the same for both sexes.

Marriages and divorces must be legally registered. Married partners have an obligation to each other to care for and raise their children.

During marriage the parents exercise parental authority over their children who are minors; they do this jointly. If they take differing views, the father's view prevails. However, if the father's decision clearly conflicts with or seriously endangers the moral or spiritual welfare of the underage child or threatens its health, the court of first instance can nullify that decision at the mother's request. Normally, during the marriage the father administers the child's property and represents the child in civil acts.

Parents (whether married or unmarried, or living together or not) are bound (according to their means) to meet the costs of living (looking after and bringing up) of their underage children and of their children who are not minors but are in need.

By law the wife is normally the guardian of her underage illegitimate children (unless she was not empowered to be their guardian at their birth, for example because she was a minor). The parent-guardian is obliged to care for and bring up his or her underage children. The parent (guardian) represents the minor in civil acts and administers the minor's property. In the event of divorce, one of the parents is appointed guardian (in this respect men and women have equal rights in law).

Regarding adoption, women have the same rights as men (adoption takes place only at the request of a married couple who want to adopt a child or at the request of the surviving spouse after a wife or husband has died and both had this intention during the marriage. After the death of one parent, by law the surviving spouse becomes the guardian of their legitimate children.

Parents are obliged, according to their means, to provide for the care and upbringing of their underage children, whether they are legitimate or illegitimate. A step-parent is under the same obligation in relation to his or her spouse's legitimate and illegitimate children who are minors and living in the family.

PART THREE

Appendices

Appendixes I to III, which were submitted with the original document, have not been translated. Appendix III is an official United Nations document. They can be consulted at the United Nations Secretariat, Division for the Advancement of Women.

Appendix IV

1. Notification of certain infectious diseases in Curaçao

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Bacillary dysentery	123	155	201	414	172	180	256
Other salmonelloses, including paratyphoid	218	190	134	214	201	275	389

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

2. Cumulative totals of AIDS patients

	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1989	Dec. 1990
Male	.	18	28	46
Female	.	10	16	28
Children	.	2	2	3
Total	18	30	46	77

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

3. Hospitals by island and number of beds, April 1991

Hospitals	Category	Number of beds
Bonaire		70
St. Franciscus Hospital	General Hospital	70
Curaçao		1 333
St. Elisabeth Hospital	General Hospital	600
Antillean Adventist Hospital	General Hospital	60
Kliniek Dr. J. Teams	Surgical clinic	30
Dr. D. Capriles Kliniek	Psychiatric Hospital	350
Mgr. Verriet Instituut	Handicapped child care	129
Kraamkliniek Bio Canario	Maternity clinic	24
Verpleeghuis Cur. Bethesda	Chronic Care Hospital	160
Saba		15
Mrs A.H. Edwards Med. Center	Medical Center	15
St. Eustatius		16
Queen Beatrix Medical Center	Medical Center	16
St. Maarten		60
St. Maarten Medical Center	General Hospital	60
Total Netherlands Antilles		1 494

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

4. Geriatric homes, April 1991

Name	Number of beds
Bonaire	55
Cas di Bonaigo Bonaire	
Curaçao	192
Huize Welgelegen	69
Ricardus Tehuis	69
Hoa Lantorno	50
Bejaardan Centrum Dr. Hugenholtz	31
Hoa Wolita	39
Huize Zorg en Hoop	36
Centro di Ewido Shalom	
St. Maarten	70
St. Martins Home	
Saba	22
Hon. Henry Calyle Every Home for the Aged	
Total Netherlands Antilles	633

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

Appendix V

5. Pharmacies, pharmacists and physicians with own pharmacy, January 1989

	Netherlands Antilles	Bonaire	Curacao	Saba	St. Eustatius	St. Maarten
Pharmacies	25	1	22	-	-	2
Pharmacists	27	1	24	-	-	2
Physicians with own pharmacy	7	1	3	1	1	1
Health institutions with own pharmacy	9	1	7	-	-	1

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

6. Number of practising physicians, dentists and veterinarians, May 1991

	Netherlands Antilles	Bonaire	Curacao	Saba	St. Eustatius	St. Maarten
Total physicians	278	4	243	1	2	28
of which:						
Specialists	109	-	101	-	-	8
Other	169	4	142	1	2	20
Physiotherapists	60	1	55	-	-	4
Midwives	10	1	8	-	-	1
Dentists	57	4	48	-	-	5
Veterinarians	7	1	5	-	-	1

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

7. Specialists registered by their specialization in Curaçao, 1989 and 1991

	Mei 1990	April 1991
Total specialists	91	101
of which:		
Anesthesiologist	1	6
Bacteriologist	1	1
Cardiologist	4	4
Child Health Specialist	1	4
Dermatologist	2	2
Ear-Nose- and Throat Physician	4	4
Gastro-enterologist	1	1
Gynaecologists - Obstretrician	9	10
Internist	10	12
Neurologist	6	6
Neursurgeon	1	1
Occupational physician	2	2
Opthalmologist	6	7
Orthopedist	6	6
Pathologist	2	2
Paediatrician	7	6
Psychiatrist	8	8
Plastic Surgeon	1	1
Pulmonologist	3	3
Radiologist	3	3
Radiotherapist	1	1
Rehabilitation Specialist	1	1
Sport Medicine Doctor	1	1
Surgeon	9	10
Urologist	1	1

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

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Appendix VI

8. Mortality by cause of death in the Netherlands Antilles, 1987

	Bonaire			Curacao		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all causes of which:	55	25	30	984	504	480
Malignant neoplasm of lip, oral cavity pharynx	2	2	0	8	7	1
Malignant neoplasm of digestive organs and peritoneum	4	2	2	70	38	32
Malignant neoplasm of respiratory and intrathoracic organs	1	1	0	39	34	5
Malignant neoplasm of bone, connective tissue, skin and breast	3	-	3	20	1	19
Malignant neoplasm of genitourinary organs	3	3	0	48	27	21
Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified sites	-	-	-	20	12	8
Malignant neoplasm of lymphatic and hemopoiatic tissue	-	-	-	19	8	8
Other unspecified neoplasm	1	1	0	9	5	4
Endocrine and metabolic diseases, immunity disorders	3	2	1	49	30	19
Diseases of blood and bloodforming organs	-	-	-	11	4	7
Diseases of the nervous system	-	-	-	18	12	6
Hypertensive disease	-					
Ischemic heart diseases	6	5	1	90	52	38
Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart disease	8	2	6	82	35	47
Cerebrovascular disease	8	3	5	99	46	53
Other disease of the circulatory system	4	-	4	17	5	12
Other diseases of the respiratory system	3	-	3	63	36	27
Diseases of other parts of the digestive system	-	-	-	35	17	18
Diseases of the urinary system	2	1	1	35	17	18
Diseases of male genital organs	-	-	-	5	5	0
Diseases of skin and subcutaneous tissues	-	-	-	13	3	10
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	-	-	-	5	1	4
Congenital anomalies	-	-	-	13	5	8
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	-	-	-	28	15	13
Signs, symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	-	2	64	28	36
Traffic accidents	1	1	0			
Other accidents including late effects	-	-	-	6	6	0
Accidental falls	1	1	0	11	5	6
Suicide and self inflicted injury	-	-	-	8	5	3
Homicide and injury purposely inflicted by other persons	1	-	1	8	6	2
Other violence	-	-	-	7	6	1

Source: Department of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene

Appendix VII

9. Top 10 causes of death (all ages), by cause and sex, in rate per 100,000 population and as a percentage of all deaths. Curaçao, 1986.

No.	ICD-IX	CAUSE GROUP	RATE	PERCENT
Total				
1.	390-429	Heart diseases	113.7	21.0
2.	140-208	Malignant neoplasms	101.2	18.7
3.	430-438	Cerebrovascular diseases	56.2	10.4
4.	760-766 768-779	Perinatal conditions	48.7	9.0
5.	250	Diabetes mellitus	16.8	3.1
6.	480-487	Pneumonia & influenza	12.5	2.3
7.	740-759	Congenital anomalies	11.9	2.2
8.	E-810-E-819	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	10.0	1.8
9.	490-493	Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	9.4	1.7
10.	Rest E-800-E-949 E-980-E-989	Accidents	9.4	1.8
Male				
1.	140-208	Malignant neoplasms	126.0	21.3
2.	390-429	Heart diseases	115.6	19.5
3.	430-438	Cerebrovascular diseases	57.1	9.6
4.	760-766 768-779	Perinatal conditions	53.3	9.0
5.	490-493	Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	18.2	3.0
6.	E 810-E 819	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	18.2	3.1
7.	740-759	Congenital anomalies	15.6	2.6
8.	480-487	Pneumonia & influenza	10.4	1.8
9.	Rest E-800-E-949 E-980-E-989	Accidents	10.4	1.8
10.	E-950-E-959	Suicide	9.0	1.5
Female				
1.	390-429	Heart diseases	112.0	22.6
2.	140-208	Malignant neoplasms	78.3	15.0
3.	430-438	Cerebrovascular diseases	55.4	11.2
4.	760-766 768-779	Perinatal conditions	44.6	9.0
5.	250	Diabetes mellitus	27.7	5.6
6.	480-487	Pneumonia & influenza	14.5	2.9
7.	740-759	Congenital anomalies	8.4	1.7
8.	Rest E 800- E 949 E 980- E 989	Accidents	8.4	1.5
9.	571	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis	4.8	1.0
10.	E 960- E 969	Homicide	3.6	0.7